

OCE22

Offshore COSHH essentials



This information will help offshore dutyholders (owners, operators and contractors) to comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to protect workers' health.

This guidance consolidates good control practice and reinforces existing knowledge with additional information. It will help you carry out COSHH assessments, review existing assessments, deliver training and in supervising activities involving substances hazardous to health.

It is aimed at staff whose responsibilities include the management of substances hazardous to health on offshore installations (eg occupational health specialists, COSHH assessors, supervisors etc). It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives.

Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow this guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.

Also see
OCE0 Advice for managers
OCM3 Personal protective equipment (PPE)

Cleaning accommodation and facilities

Control approach 1 General ventilation

What this sheet covers

This sheet covers the use of cleaning chemicals in accommodation and facilities. It describes good practice for handling cleaning products and covers the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an acceptable level, as part of your COSHH assessment.



Hazards

- ✓ Cleaning products are a wide range of chemicals and include surfactants, oxidizing agents, amines, bleaches, fragrances and colourants.
- ✓ Dusts generated during cleaning may contain allergic materials, eg dust mite residues.
- ✓ Chlorine-releasing chemicals (eg sodium hypochlorite bleach) will produce toxic gases if mixed with, for example, acidic toilet cleaners or ammonia containing products.
- ✓ Health effects include irritation, burns and dermatitis from skin contact; eye damage from direct contact; and breathing problems from inhalation of vapours.
- ✓ Frequent hand contact with water can also cause dermatitis.

Access

- ✓ Restrict access to the chemical store.

Storage

- ✓ Provide a store with sufficient space, well organised, well lit and well ventilated.
- ✓ The storage area should be designed to contain spills.

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- ✓ Clearly display the labels on chemical containers.
 - ✓ Minimise the amount of product stored.
 - ✓ Provide spill clean-up kits.

Control procedures

- ✓ Ensure a good standard of general ventilation, eg 5–10 air changes per hour.
- ✓ Prepare a cleaning schedule for cleaning tasks.
- ✓ Replace harmful cleaning products with milder alternatives, if available.
- ✓ Prevent cross-contamination by providing colour-coded equipment (eg buckets) for different areas. Use disposable cloths for toilet areas.
- ✓ Follow the label instruction for use.
- ✓ Where possible, provide equipment with auto-dosing and cleaning-in-place.
- ✓ Provide automated dispensing systems.
- ✓ Make sure biocide containers are easy to pour from, don't dribble and don't trap liquid in a rim.
- ✓ Do not mix with other products.
- ✓ Keep lid on to stop spillages.
- ✓ Label all containers appropriately.
- ✓ Dispose of empty containers safely, or return to the supplier. Never reuse them.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) – see OCM3

- ✓ Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is normally not needed.

Other protective equipment

- ✓ Follow the instructions on product labels.
- ✓ Where necessary, provide eye protection (visor or goggles).
- ✓ Ensure workers wear protective gloves. Single-use gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, select low-protein powder-free gloves.
- ✓ Tell workers to discard single use gloves every time they take them off.

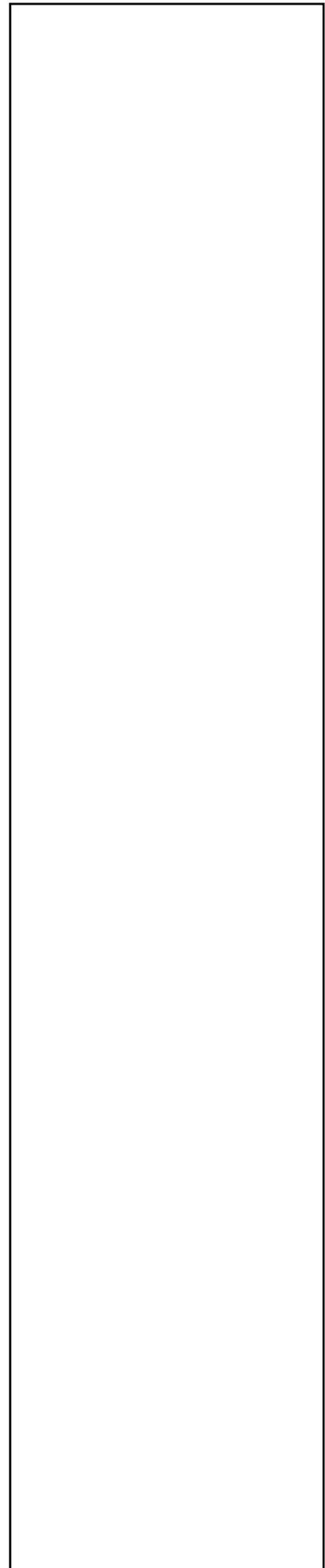
Maintenance, examination and testing

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Display the cleaning schedule.
- ✓ The schedule should show:
 - the responsible person;
 - the area, equipment and surfaces to be cleaned;
 - the cleaning frequency; and
 - the cleaning method.
- ✓ The cleaner must sign the schedule with date/time.
- ✓ Clear up spills immediately. Use protective gloves. You may also need RPE.

Waste

- ✓ Empty waste to designated receptacles. If these are outside of accommodation areas, workers must wear designated PPE.



Personal hygiene and skin care

- ✓ Provide hand wash basins with hot and cold running water
- ✓ Provide pre-work skin creams, which will make it easier to wash dirt from the skin, and after-work creams to replace skin oils.

Caution: ‘Barrier creams’ or ‘liquid gloves’ do not provide a full barrier.

Health surveillance

- ✓ Conduct low-level health surveillance for asthma using a respiratory questionnaire administered by a suitably trained responsible person.
- ✓ Conduct low-level health surveillance for dermatitis involving skin checks by suitably trained responsible person.

Training and supervision

- ✓ Provide supervision – ensure that safe work procedures are followed.
- ✓ Hazardous substances and their health effects.
- ✓ Explain the early signs of asthma and dermatitis.
- ✓ Supervise storage and inventory record keeping.
- ✓ Training includes toolbox talks on:
 - how to check that the equipment is working properly;
 - personal hygiene;
 - how to clean up spills correctly; and
 - what to do if something goes wrong.
- ✓ Involve managers and supervisors in health and safety training.

Essential information

OCE0 *Advice for managers*

OCM3 *Personal protective equipment (PPE)*

Employee checklist

- Is the equipment in good condition and working properly?
- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage before every job.
- Clean up leaks and spills immediately.
- If you find any problem, get it fixed. Don't just carry on working.
- Co-operate with health surveillance.
- Use, look after and store your PPE in accordance with instructions.
- Discard single-use gloves every time you take them off. Discard other gloves at the end of the shift.
- Wash hands before eating, drinking or using the lavatory.

Other hazards

- Muscoloskeletal disorders – manual handling, awkward heavy items in restricted places
- Sharps
- Hot surfaces
- Wet work
- Slips and trips

Further information

Safe use of cleaning chemicals in the hospitality industry
 Catering Information Sheet
 CAIS22 HSE Books 2003
www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/caterdex.htm

You can find the full Offshore COSHH essentials series at www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.htm

This guidance was developed by representatives from the UK offshore oil and gas industry and trade unions, with HSE.