


COSSH Policy		
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Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH Regulations)

Assessment

The assessment must be a systematic review, based on the following questions:-

- What substances are present? In what form?
- What harmful effects are possible?
- Where and how are the substances used or handled?
- What harmful effects are given off?
- Who could be affected, to what extent and for how long?
- Under what circumstances?
- How likely is it that exposure will happen?
- What precautions need to be taken to comply with the COSHH Regulations?
- What procedures need to be put in place to comply with the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006?

Prevention or Control

Employers must ensure that the exposure of workers to hazardous substances is prevented or, if this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled.

On the basis of the assessment, the employer has to decide which control measures are appropriate to the work situation in order to deal effectively with any hazardous substances that may be present. This may mean preventing exposure by:-

- Removing the hazardous substance.
- Changing the process.
- Substituting with a safe or safer substance, or using a safer form.
- OR where this is not reasonably practicable, controlling exposure by (for example) - totally enclosing the process, using partial enclosure and extraction equipment, general ventilation, or using safe systems of work and handling procedures.

It is for the employer to choose the method of controlling exposure and to examine and test control measures if required. The Regulations limit the use of Personal Protective Equipment (eg respirators, dust masks, protective clothing) as the means of protection to those situations ONLY where other measures cannot adequately control exposure.

Employers must provide any of their workers and, so far as is reasonably practicable, other persons on site who may be exposed to substances hazardous to health, with suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training, so that they know the risks they run and the precautions they must take.

Employers must ensure that anyone who carries out any task in connection with their duties under COSHH has sufficient information, instruction and training to do the job properly.