



CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH (COSHH) GUIDANCE

This procedural document supersedes CORP/HSFS 7 v.7 - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Guidance



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Amendment Form

Please record brief details of the changes made alongside the next version number. If the procedural document has been reviewed **without change**, this information will still need to be recorded although the version number will remain the same.

Version	Date Issued	Brief Summary of Changes	Author
Version 8	January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended to reflect appointment of new Health and Safety Advisor. • The inclusion of the Alcumus/Sypol electronic COSHH Management System in 1. The Introduction and 6 Monitoring Compliance with the Procedural Document – What is being monitored. 	Gary Hewit N P Donegan
Version 7	October 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amended to reflect changes from Care Groups to Divisions. 	Neil Donegan
Version 6	April 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document changed to become Guidance, under the Health and Safety Policy 	Neil Donegan
Version 5	May 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title change • Items re-numbered • Changes made to reflect Corporate changes to include Clinical Service Units and new Management Board • Added 'Equality Impact Assessment' at item 3. 	Ian Soulsby

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations were introduced in 1988 requiring employers to make an assessment of the risks to health which arise from exposure to hazardous substances. As part of this assessment they must establish what control measures are necessary to prevent or adequately control exposure and what further precautions need to be taken to protect workers' health.

The Regulations have been amended on several occasions since 1988 and the current legislation has been re-issued in 2002 with a subsequent amendment in 2004.

To ensure compliance with these Regulations the Trust has contracted the services of the Alcumus/Sypol electronic COSHH management system to manage keep the Trust updated with the Regulations and notify any changes update Safety Data Sheets as required.

2 PURPOSE

The general duty of an employer under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 applies to work involving the use of substances hazardous to health as it applies to other kinds of work. The act places a duty on the employer to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all his employees. The employer is also required to:

- Provide and maintain plant and systems of work that are safe and free from health risks.
- Make arrangements for ensuring the safety and absence of health risks in connection with the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety at work of employees.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 lay down the following specific duties on employers:

- To carry out an assessment of health risk to employees.
- To prevent/control exposure of employees to health risks.
- To establish proper use of controls and personal protective equipment (PPE).
- To maintain, examine and test controls and keep records.
- To monitor workplace exposure of employees.
- To provide health surveillance for employees where necessary.
- To provide information, instruction and training with regard to hazardous substances.
- To ensure that procedures are in place to deal with any accidents, incidents or emergencies.

3 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Divisional/Departmental Manager is responsible to their Divisional/Department Director for the implementation COSHH within their area of responsibility and in particular, has to ensure:

3.1 Risk Assessment

- 3.1.1 No work is carried out that is liable to expose employees to substances hazardous to health unless a suitable and sufficient assessment, in writing, of those risks has been carried out.
- 3.1.2 The assessment is reviewed if there is reason to suspect that it is no longer valid or there has been a significant change in the work to which the assessment relates.

3.2 Prevention or Control of Exposure

Schedule 2A to the regulations (as amended) lists the principles of good practice for the control of exposure to substances hazardous to health. These can be found in section 4.1 of this document.

3.3 Use, Maintenance, Examination and Test of Control Measures

- 3.3.1 Where control measures, personal protective equipment or other facilities are provided, they are properly used, stored and applied.
- 3.3.2 Employees are aware that they have a duty to make full and proper use of any control measures, personal protective equipment or other facility and that they report any defects etc. immediately.
- 3.3.3 Control measures provided are efficiently maintained, are in an efficient state and in good working order.
- 3.3.4 Engineering controls (e.g. local exhaust ventilation) is thoroughly examined and tested at least once every 14 months or sooner if required by the regulations, and that respiratory protective equipment, other than disposable, is examined and tested at regular intervals.
- 3.3.5 Records of any examination, inspection, test or repair in connection with COSHH are retained for a minimum of 5 years.

4 PROCEDURE

Before any substance is used in the workplace a competent person should check to decide whether it is classified as a hazard. Hazard Data Sheets are available from the supplier, which give details of how to properly manage the substance, so as to safeguard staff, patients' and visitors' health.

Using the Hazard Data Sheet, an assessment should then be made of the risks to health through exposure. The assessment should consider all existing control measures.

4.1 Principles of Good Practice for the Control of Exposure to Substances Hazardous to Health

- 4.1.1 Design and operate processes and activities to minimise emission, release and spread of substances hazardous to health.
- 4.1.2 Take into account all relevant routes of exposure- inhalation, skin absorption and ingestion- when developing control measures.
- 4.1.3 Control exposure by measures that are proportionate to the health risk.
- 4.1.4 Choose the most effective and reliable control options which minimise the escape and spread of substances hazardous to health.
- 4.1.5 Where adequate control of exposure cannot be achieved by other means, provide, in combination with other control measures, suitable personal protective equipment.
- 4.1.6 Check and review regularly all elements of control measures for their continuing effectiveness.
- 4.1.7 Inform and train all employees on the hazards and risks from the substances with which they work and the use of control measures developed to minimise the risks.
- 4.1.8 Ensure that the introduction of control measures does not increase the overall risk to health and safety.

5 TRAINING/SUPPORT

Staff who are exposed to hazardous substances are provided with suitable information, instruction and training to know the risks to their health created by such exposure and the precautions to be taken.

The results of any monitoring of exposure at the workplace should also be passed on to employees. The Health and Safety Adviser will give assistance and support as required.

6 MONITORING COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROCEDURAL DOCUMENT

What is being Monitored	Who will carry out the Monitoring	How often	How Reviewed/ Where Reported to
Monitoring and review of COSHH assessments should be carried out in accordance with the methodology included in the Alcumus/Sypol COSHH management system utilized by DBTH Trust.	Ward/Department Managers, Risk Assessors	Annually, or when a new substance is introduced.	Reviewed by task observation. Recorded on Risk Registers. Serious anomalies reported to Divisional Directors plus Health and Safety department.

7 DEFINITIONS

The term "**Substances Hazardous to Health**" applies to the following:

- Those substances that have been classified as being either Very Toxic, Toxic Harmful, Corrosive or Irritant.
- Those substances for which the Health and Safety Commission has approved a workplace exposure limit.
- Those substances which have chronic or delayed effects, for example, substances that are Carcinogenic (cancer forming), Teratogenic (causing birth defects) and Mutagenic (possibly affecting future generations).
- Biological Agents i.e. any micro-organism etc. which may cause infection, allergy, toxicity or otherwise create a risk to humans.
- Dust of any kind, when present at a substantial concentration in air.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been conducted on this procedural document in line with the principles of the Equality Analysis Policy (CORP/EMP 27) and the Fair Treatment For All Policy (CORP/EMP 4).

The purpose of the EIA is to minimise and if possible remove any disproportionate impact on employees on the grounds of race, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or religious belief. No detriment was identified. (See Appendix 1).

9 ASSOCIATED TRUST PROCEDURAL DOCUMENTS

Health and Safety Policy (CORP/HSFF 1)

Mental Capacity Act 2005 Policy and Guidance, including

Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) (PAT/PA 19)

Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Policy

(CORP/RISK 30)

10 DATA PROTECTION

Any personal data processing associated with this policy will be carried out under 'Current data protection legislation' as in the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2021.

For further information on data processing carried out by the trust, please refer to our Privacy Notices and other information which you can find on the trust website:

<https://www.dbth.nhs.uk/about-us/our-publications/information-governance/>

11 REFERENCES

Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health, Approved Codes of Practice 2002.
(L5 – Health and Safety Executive).

APPENDIX 1 - EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT PART 1 INITIAL SCREENING

Service/Function/Policy/Project/Strategy	Division	Assessor (s)	New or Existing Service or Policy?	Date of Assessment
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Guidance	Estates and Facilities	Gary Hewit	Existing policy	October 2021
1) Who is responsible for this policy? Estates and Facilities				
2) Describe the purpose of the service / function / policy / project/ strategy? To ensure all Trust staff are aware of COSHH guidance				
3) Are there any associated objectives? Legislation, targets national expectation, standards – Compliance with Policies and legislation				
4) What factors contribute or detract from achieving intended outcomes? – Behaviour and understanding				
5) Does the policy have an impact in terms of age, race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage/civil partnership, maternity/pregnancy and religion/belief? Details: [see Equality Impact Assessment Guidance] - No				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If yes, please describe current or planned activities to address the impact [e.g. Monitoring, consultation] – N/A 				
6) Is there any scope for new measures which would promote equality? [any actions to be taken] N/A				
7) Are any of the following groups adversely affected by the policy?				
Protected Characteristics	Affected?	Impact		
a) Age	No			
b) Disability	No			
c) Gender	No			
d) Gender Reassignment	No			
e) Marriage/Civil Partnership	No			
f) Maternity/Pregnancy	No			
g) Race	No			
h) Religion/Belief	No			
i) Sexual Orientation	No			
8) Provide the Equality Rating of the service / function /policy / project / strategy – tick (✓) outcome box				
Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	
*If you have rated the policy as having an outcome of 2, 3 or 4, it is necessary to carry out a detailed assessment and complete a Detailed Equality Analysis form – see CORP/EMP 27.				
Date for next review:		October 2024		
Checked by:		Sean Tyler	Date:	October 2021