



Control approach 2

Dry cleaning – spot cleaning

SR06

Engineering control



This guidance sheet is for employers including the self-employed and franchisees

to help them comply with the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) by controlling exposure to chemicals and protecting workers' health.

The sheet is part of HSE guidance *COSHH essentials: easy steps to control chemicals*. It describes the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an adequate level. It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Get safety data sheets from your product supplier. Use these to identify the more dangerous chemicals, and less dangerous substitutes. Also check for flammability.

Many spotting fluids are irritating to the skin and eyes, and some can cause skin damage.

Engineering control (extraction) is the recommended approach.

Workplace and access

- ✓ Restrict access to those people who need to be there.
- ✓ Make sure there is enough room to do the job safely.
- ✓ Keep the workplace well organised, with clear exit routes.

Design and equipment

- ✓ Keep the workplace well ventilated - 10 to 15 air changes per hour with a through draught.
- ✓ Use a spotting table provided with extraction.
- ✓ You need an air speed between 0.5 and 1 metres per second at the extraction point.
- ✓ Use spotting bottles with the smallest practical hole size in the nozzle.
- ✓ You need washing facilities for decontamination after handling products.

Procedures

- ✓ Only buy products in a ready-for-use solution.
- ✓ Spotting bottles should never be more than two thirds full, to avoid squirting fluid into eyes.
- ✓ Store products containing chemicals securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don't store far more than you need.
- ✓ Read the instructions on labels carefully - follow the instructions for use.
- ✓ Keep chemicals off your skin - wash off any splashes immediately.
- ✓ Put the cap back on the container immediately.
- ✓ Plan what to do in case of a spill. Tell staff what the plan is. Hold practices.

Special care

- Contact with many chemicals can lead to skin soreness, itching, rashes, and blistering (dermatitis). Some can also damage the eyes.
- Some products may cause asthma - check the safety data sheet.
- Try to avoid products that contain hydrofluoric acid. This is very dangerous by skin contact and by breathing in. Get expert advice on first aid.

Maintenance

- ✓ Follow instructions in maintenance manuals.
- ✓ Keep equipment in effective and efficient working order.
- ✓ If the extraction is faulty, stop work until it is repaired.

Examination and testing

- ✓ At least once a week, look for signs of damage.
- ✓ You need to know the extraction design performance to know if it is working properly. The equipment supplier's manual should give this information.

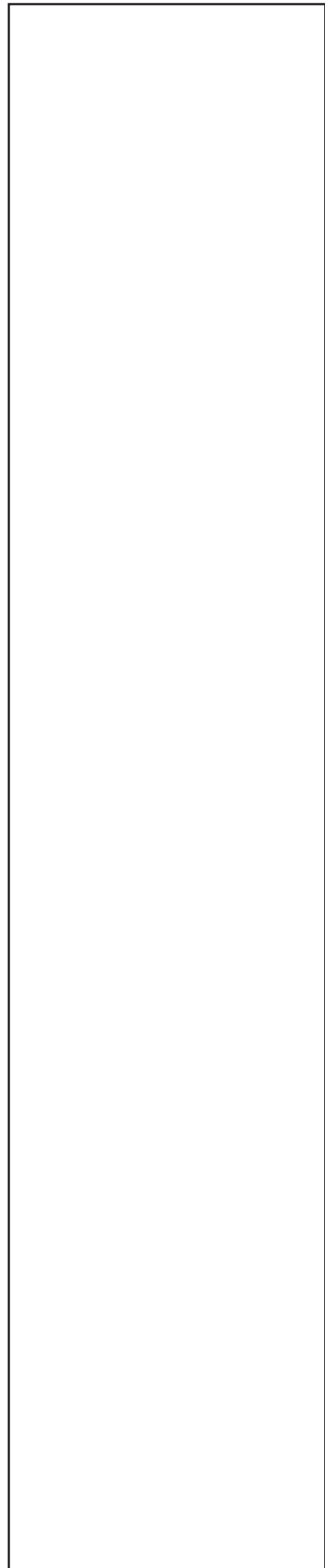
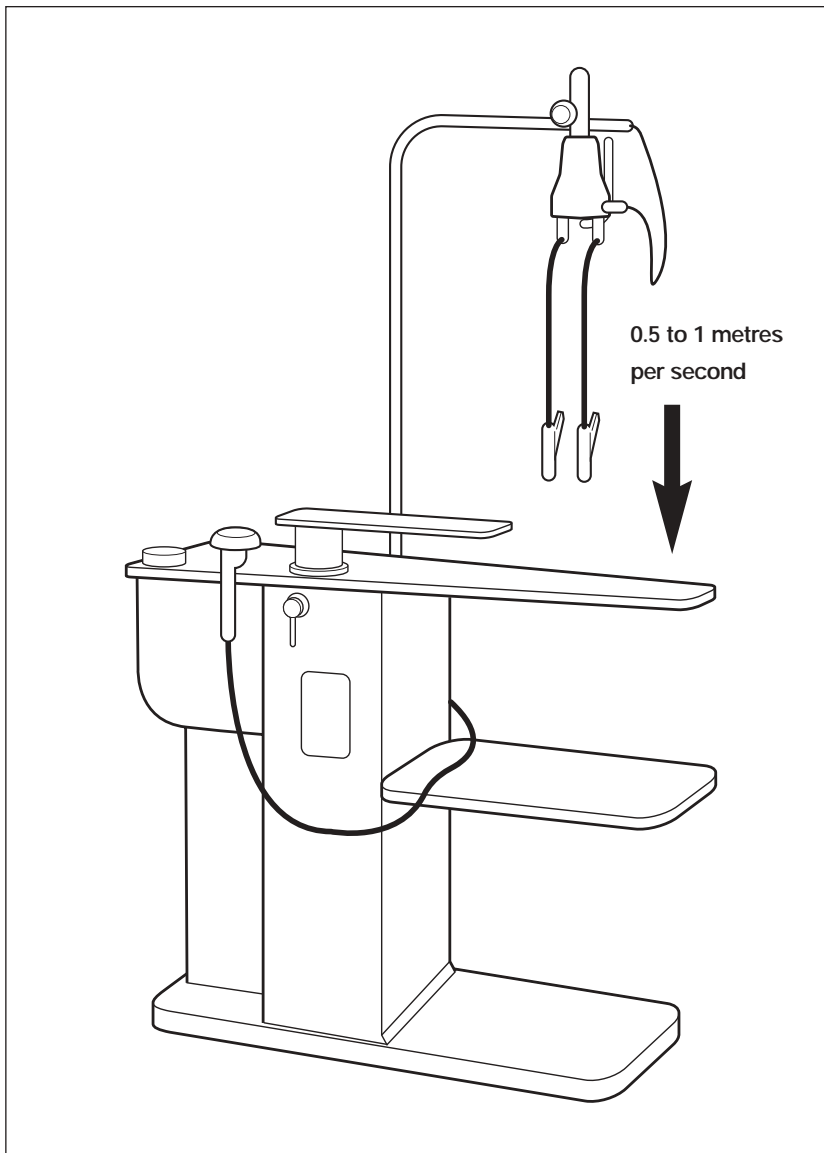
- ✓ Get a competent ventilation engineer to examine the system thoroughly and test its performance at least once every 14 months (see HSE publication HSG54).
- ✓ Keep records of all examinations and tests for at least five years.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Clear up spills promptly. Provide granules to absorb spills, and a lidded bin to store this waste for disposal.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Follow the instructions on product labels.
- ✓ Ask your safety-clothing supplier to help you get the right PPE.
- ✓ Use protective gloves and eye protection for topping up bottles. Single-use nitrile gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, use only 'low-protein, powder-free' gloves.
- ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin protection and help in washing contamination from the skin. These are **not** 'barrier creams'. After work creams help to replace skin oils.



Health advice

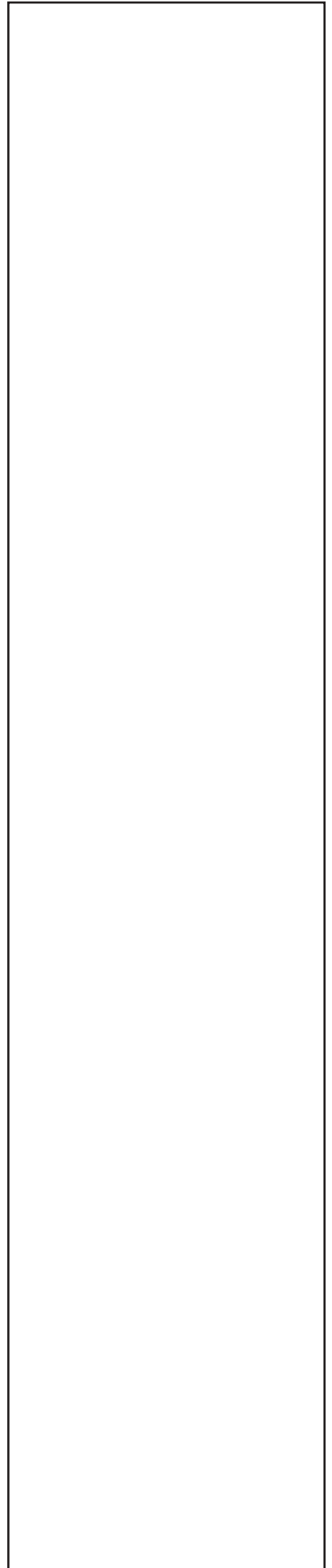
- ✓ Ask your workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every six months. If these effects appear, check the proper use of skin creams and PPE.

Training

- ✓ Show your workers this sheet and check that they understand it.
- ✓ Tell them about the risks of using the product - see product labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet from your product supplier.
- ✓ Ensure training includes how to keep exposures low, how to check that the extraction system is working, how to use and look after PPE and RPE, and dealing with spills, etc.
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows how to clear up spills promptly and safely.

Supervision

- ✓ Check that:
 - the extraction is working properly;
 - safe operating procedures are observed;
 - PPE is being used properly; and
 - the rules on personal hygiene are being followed.
- ✓ Get safety data sheets from your suppliers and identify the more dangerous chemicals. Consider substitution.



Further information

- *General ventilation in the workplace: Guidance for employers* HSG202 HSE Books 2000 **ISBN 0 7176 1793 9**
- *Maintenance, examination and testing of local exhaust ventilation* HSG54 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998 **ISBN 0 7176 1485 9**
- *Health, safety and environment management guidelines* Textile Services Association 1999 available from TSA on 020 8863 7755 or via www.tsa-uk.org
- *A clean bill of health: Health and safety in the dry cleaning industry* Video HSE Books 2003 **ISBN 0 7176 2166 9**
- *Drycleaners: Are you in control? Health and safety in drycleaning* Leaflet INDG310 HSE Books 2000 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 **ISBN 0 7176 1710 6**)
- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205 HSE Books 2001 **ISBN 0 7176 1826 9**
- *Hydrofluoric acid poisoning: Recommendations on first aid procedures* Leaflet INDG307 HSE Books 1999 (single copy free or priced packs of 25 **ISBN 0 7176 1751 3**)
- *Preventing dermatitis at work: Advice for employers and employees* Leaflet INDG233 HSE Books 1996 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 **ISBN 0 7176 1246 5**)
- Health and safety consultants: the BOHS Faculty of Occupational Hygiene keeps lists of qualified hygienists who can help you. Contact BOHS on 0133 229 8087 or at www.bohs.org/

Employee checklist

- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Wash your hands after use, and before and after eating, drinking, smoking and using the lavatory.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products or solvents.
- If you get hydrofluoric acid on your skin, wash it off immediately, apply calcium gluconate gel and go to hospital for further treatment. Take the safety data sheet with you.
- Clear up chemical spills promptly. Absorb liquid spills in granules and dispose of them safely.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.



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