

SR19

COSHH essentials for service and retail

Work with lubricants and waste oil

Control approach S

Harm via skin or eye contact



This information will help employers (including the self-employed and franchisees) comply with the Control of Substances

Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure and protect workers' health.

It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice using personal protective equipment (PPE).

It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Main points

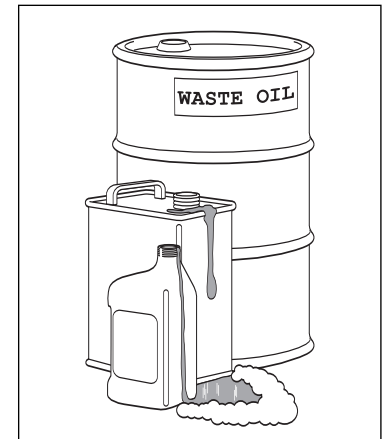
- Oils and lubricants can cause skin irritation.
- Used engine oil may cause skin cancer.
- Check that all the controls are being used properly.

Access and premises

- ✓ Restrict access to those people who need to be there.
- ✓ Provide good washing facilities.

Equipment

- ✓ Designate storage areas capable of retaining spills for lubricants and wastes. Keep these areas free of ignition sources.
- ✓ Ensure that storage tanks have contents gauges or indicators.



Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Use coveralls or work clothing to protect skin from contamination.
- ✓ Provide vinyl or nitrile protective gloves for handling lubricants and waste oils. Single-use gloves are acceptable.
- ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time they are taken 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.

Caution: Workers must not take work clothing home for washing. Use a contract laundry.

Procedures

- ✓ Store only minimum amounts of waste engine oil and ensure it is properly labelled.

Caution: Never allow waste oil to be contaminated with petrol or solvents.

Special Care

- ✓ Waste engine oil may cause skin cancer. Never keep oily rags in your pockets.

Maintenance, examination and testing

- ✓ At least once a week, look for signs of damage.

Health monitoring

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ If warts appear, workers should seek medical advice.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Clear up spills promptly. Provide granules to absorb spills, and a lidded bin kept outside in a secure place to store this waste for disposal.
- ✓ Dispose of hazardous waste through a specialist contractor.

Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell workers about the risks of using the product - see products labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet.
- ✓ Where you have to use strong hand cleansers, train workers to wash off the residues with soap and water.
- ✓ If products can cause skin or eye damage, plan how to give first aid.
- ✓ Working in the right way and using the controls correctly is important for exposure control. Train and supervise workers. See sheet SR0.

Further information

- *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

Useful links

- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books
Tel: 01787 881165 Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk.
- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: hse.infoline@natbrit.com.
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at www.bohs.org for lists of qualified hygienists who can help you.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services' for 'occupational health'.
- Also see www.nhsplus.nhs.uk.

Employee checklist

- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- Clear up spills straight away. Absorb spills in granules and put them in a lidded bin.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Wash your hands after use, and before and after eating, drinking, smoking and using the lavatory.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products, solvents or fuel.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the 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.