

Control approach **R**

Fogging and misting using space sprayers

Respiratory protective equipment

SR03

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.

Disinfectants and insecticides are biocidal products. Authorised products are safe for use so long as you follow the instructions on the label.

Space sprays produce mists that can be breathed in and can deposit on clothing and skin.

Respiratory protective equipment with control approach 1 (general ventilation) is recommended, unless the product label states otherwise.

Electrically powered equipment requires portable appliance testing (PAT).

Workplace and access

- Fogging and misting is common in food preparation areas, in warehouses, animal housing and garden centres.
- ✓ Clear the treatment area of people before starting work. Keep the area vacated for at least 30 minutes.
- ✓ Display warning signs.

Design and equipment

- ✓ Ensure the sprayer works properly, without leaks.
- ✓ Wear respiratory protective equipment (RPE) unless the instructions for use state that this is unnecessary.
- ✗ Never decant treatment fluid into an unlabelled container.
- ✗ Never re-use a treatment fluid container. Dispose of it safely - not by burning.
- ✗ Don't store more than 50 litres of flammable liquid indoors. Use a flammables store.
- ✓ You need washing facilities for decontamination after handling products.

Procedures

- ✓ Contractors using pesticides should have a British Pest Control Association (BPCA) qualification.
- ✓ If possible, buy products in a ready-for-use solution.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Close doors and windows, and turn off ventilation systems before starting the treatment.
- ✓ Start work furthest from the exit and work towards the exit. Keep RPE on until you have left the treatment area.
- ✓ Avoid contact with surfaces until they are dry.
- ✓ Clean up spills promptly - practise how to do this.
- ✓ Consider what information you need to give to clients.

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.
- Seek special advice if you spray products containing enzymes - see Further information.

Maintenance

- ✓ Follow instructions in maintenance manuals.
- ✓ Keep equipment in effective and efficient working order.
- ✓ Wash out the equipment after use. Dispose of this waste liquid safely.

Examination and testing

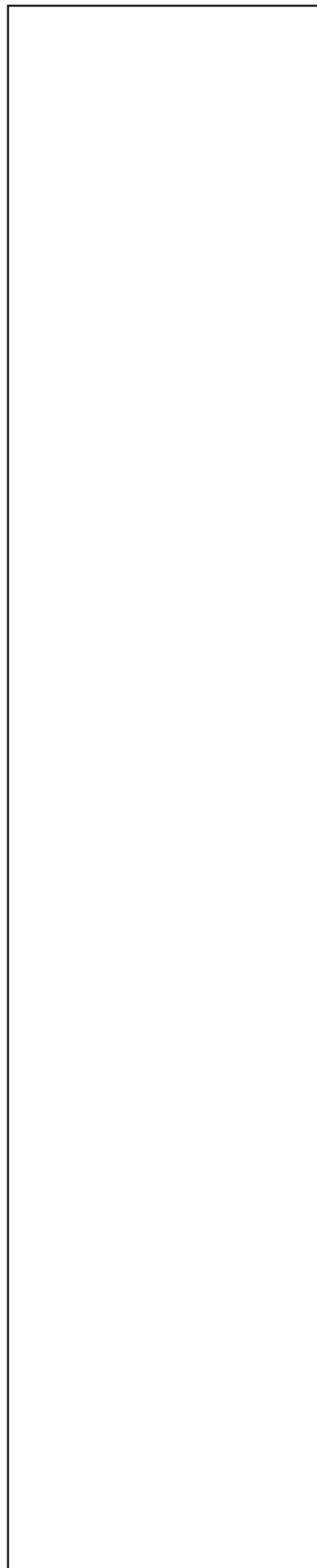
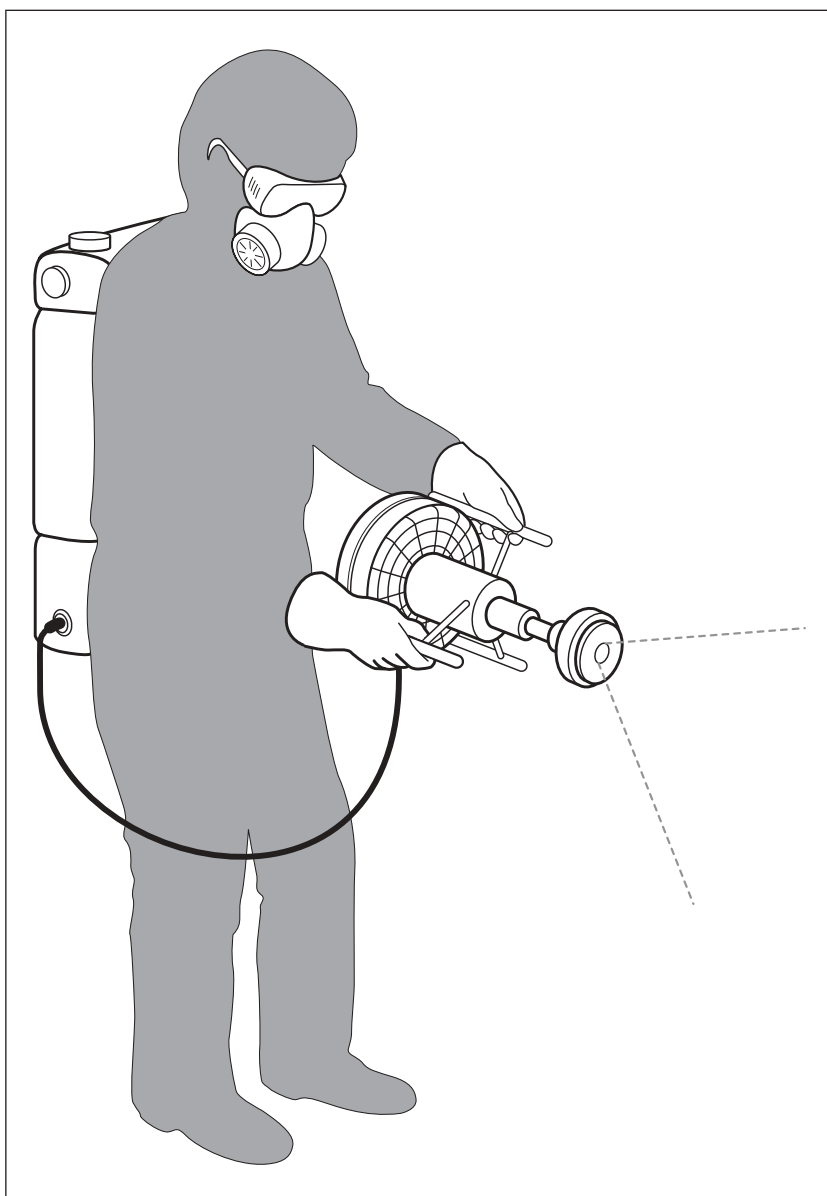
- ✓ Make sure that users examine their RPE thoroughly and test that it works properly every time it is used.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Deal with spills immediately - absorb liquid spills. This needs coveralls, respiratory protection and single-use gloves.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Follow the instructions on product labels.
- ✓ Ask your safety-clothing supplier to help you get the right PPE.
- ✓ Respiratory protective equipment (RPE) is needed. Make sure respirators have an Assigned Protection Factor (APF) of 10 or more, and are CE marked. Seek advice from your RPE supplier.
- ✓ Replace RPE filters as recommended by the supplier. Throw away disposable RPE after one use.
- ✓ Make sure you know how to check that RPE fits correctly. Seek advice from your supplier.



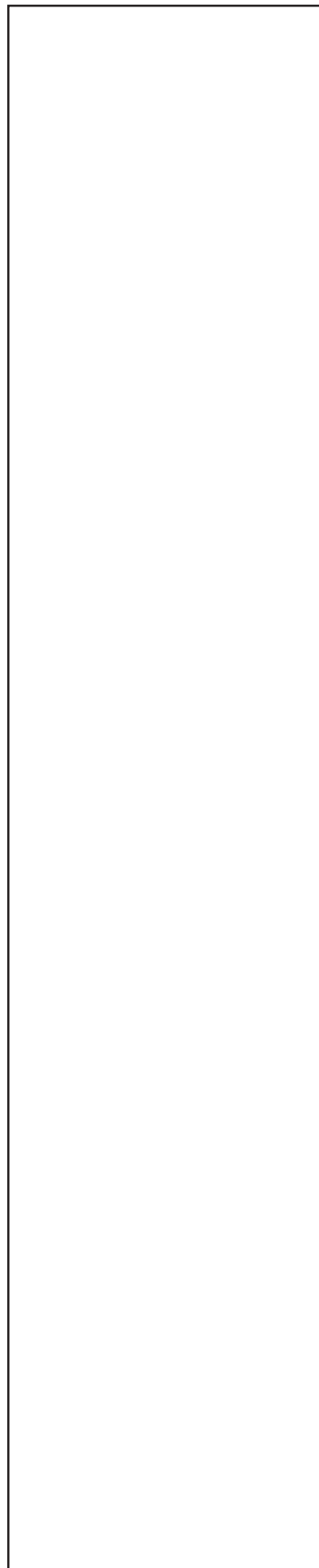
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- ✓ Keep RPE on until you have left the work area.
 - ✓ Wear protective gloves - single-use nitrile gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, use only 'low-protein, powder-free' gloves.
 - ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
 - ✓ Use protective goggles to protect eyes.
 - ✓ Wear a hooded coverall - cotton or porous polypropylene is probably the best material.
 - ✓ 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.
- ✓ If you use a product labelled 'may cause sensitisation by skin contact' or 'may cause sensitisation by inhalation', seek specialist advice. See Further information.

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 use and look after PPE and RPE, and what to do if something goes wrong.
- ✓ Train workers on how to tell clients about the risks.
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows how to clear up spills promptly and safely.



Further information

- *The selection, use and maintenance of respiratory protective equipment: A practical guide* HSG53 (Second edition) HSE Books 1998 **ISBN 0 7176 1537 5**
- *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**
- *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/
- Occupational health professionals: details of doctors and nurses can be found in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services'. Also visit the NHS website at www.nhsplus.nhs.uk

Employee checklist

- Is the treatment area vacated?
- Look for signs of leaks, wear and damage.
- Check that your RPE works properly every time you put it on.
- 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.
- Clear up chemical spills promptly. Absorb liquid spills in granules and dispose of them safely.
- Use and store your protective equipment according to instructions.
- 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.



*COSHH essentials:
easy steps to control chemicals*
October 2003

Printed and published by
the Health and Safety Executive