

Hazardous substance protection

Designers have to sometimes specify hazardous materials for special purposes. These must be identified to the PC in specifications, drawings and CDM documentation.

Hazardous substances encountered in the Construction Industry include;

- Chemicals and products containing chemicals.
- Fumes.
- Dusts.
- Vapours.
- Mists.
- Gases and asphyxiating gases.
- Biological agents (germs). If the packaging has any of the hazard symbols then it is classed as a hazardous substance.
- Germs that can be encountered that could cause diseases such as leptospirosis or legionnaires disease.

To ensure adequate levels of control and protection from hazardous substances, Sub-contractors must;

- Plan and operate processes and activities to minimise emission, release and spread of substances hazardous to health.
- Carry out suitable COSHH assessments and provide these to SCL.
- Take into account all relevant routes of exposure – inhalation, skin absorption and ingestion – when developing control measures.
- Control exposure by measures that are proportionate to the health risk.
- Choose the most effective and reliable control options which minimise the escape and spread of substances hazardous to health.
- Provide suitable personal protective equipment where adequate control of exposure cannot be achieved by other means.
- Check and review control measures regularly for their continuing effectiveness.
- Inform and train all employees on the hazards and risks from the substances they work with and the use of control measures in place to minimise the risks.

- Ensure that the introduction of control measures does not increase the overall risk to Health and Safety of any person even those not directly involved with the task.
- PC must maintain a COSHH register.

