

# Risk Assessment

## RA037 – COSHH Substances Hazardous to Health



ABI Equipment Ltd	Creation Date: 01/09/20
COSHH Use of Substances Hazardous to Health	

Main Hazards are:	
Serious health hazard or very toxic	Explosive
Flammable or extremely flammable	Gas or fluid under pressure
Harmful to skin, eyes, airway or digestive system	Harmful to the environment
Irritation to skin, eyes, airway or digestive system	Corrosive or oxidising
Persons / Property affected	
All Employees	General Public
Visitors	

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	5	X	Likelihood	3	= Risk	15
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Control Measures already in Place	PPE Required
1. All employees to understand the hazard classification symbols on the product label	Safety helmets <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Gloves should be worn at all times when handling the chemicals especially when splashing is a possibility, or the product is being sprayed.	Hi-Vis Jackets <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Goggles or full-face mask must be worn when splashing is a possibility, or the product is being sprayed.	Safety footwear <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Overalls to be worn at all times when handling chemicals	Eye protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Suitable footwear to be worn when handling chemicals.	Dust masks <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Use a barrier cream if prone to skin problems	Ear plugs <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do not eat, drink or smoke around any chemicals.	Earmuffs <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Wash hands thoroughly after handling the product especially before eating, drinking or smoking.	Gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. Do not inhale chemicals either deliberately or by accident.	Protective overalls <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Do not use your teeth /mouth as a tool to open containers.	Gauntlets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Change overalls & other clothing if any chemicals have soaked through and are in contact with the skin.	Harnesses <input type="checkbox"/>
12. No chemical should be used in an enclosed space without reference to the safety data sheet. This includes inspection pits, inside vans & rigs, closed rooms.	Breathing apparatus <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13. All chemicals should be stored in dry, cool, well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat or ignition. Unless specifically kept outside chemicals should be stored away from direct sunlight and away from strong oxidising agents or acids.	Face masks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
14. Chemicals should not be stored in the same cupboards as electrical equipment.	
15. Chemicals should, where possible, always be kept in their original containers and if decanted the new container must be of the correct material and clearly labelled. Always refer to the detailed safety data sheet before decanting the product into another container.	
16. Some chemicals are static accumulators and storage containers should be earthed and bonded <b>OR</b> not stored at ABI's premises. This includes Diesel	
17. All chemicals are dangerous if injected under the skin at high pressure causing severe internal damage if not treated immediately. Medical	

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attention should be sought immediately if skin injection is suspected rather than wait for symptoms to develop	
18. Always wear gloves or gauntlets	
19. Some chemicals are more dangerous once they have been used due to contaminants. For example, used engine oil may contain particles which have the potential to cause skin cancer.	
20. Chemicals are particularly dangerous to pregnant women and a detailed assessment must be carried out for a pregnant woman before she comes into contact with any chemical.	
21. Use earth sand or suitable absorbent material to clean up spill.	
22. Put the contaminated material into a suitable container and dispose of appropriately.	
23. For large spills the area should be evacuated and the detailed COSHH sheet should be reviewed.	
24. For smaller spills of flammable products, the area should be evacuated and ventilated before clearing up the spill.	
25. Never let the product enter drains, sewers, water ways or seep into the ground. Always assume it is a danger to the environment.	
26. If spill does enter drains, sewers & waterways refer to safety data sheet to see whether further action needs to be taken.	
27. There are a variety of extinguishers around the building. All employees should be aware of what type of fire each extinguisher can be used on.	
28. Never put the fire between yourself and your emergency exit	
29. They should only be used on fires no bigger than an office waste bin or if your escape exit is blocked.	
30. Never use water jets on a fire as it will spread the fire over a greater area. Water spray should be used to cool overheated cylinders but not around electrical fires.	
31. CO2 extinguishers are very effective for a short amount of time, but the fire may start again when the CO2 has evaporated. The nozzles of the CO2 extinguishers become very cold and can cause freeze burns on the skins.	
32. Many products which are normally safe to use give off dangerous fumes when on fire and you should avoid breathing the vapours.	

<b>Assessment of Risk:</b>	Severity	4	X	Likelihood	2	= Risk	8
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Additional Controls required	PPE/Equipment
1. If suffering from dizziness, drowsiness, blurred vision or loss of consciousness remove person to fresh air immediately.	
2. Never give anything to eat or drink without referring to the safety data sheet.	
3. When in doubt always seek medical assistance.	
4. Take the supplier safety data sheet with you	
5. If eyes are contaminated flush eyes immediately, remove contact lenses. Most suppliers advise eyes should be flushed for at least 10 to 15 minutes.	
6. Never use <b>water jet extinguishers</b> on liquid fires as this can spread the fire.	
7. Extinguishers should only be used on small fires (size of waste paper bin) or when someone is in danger.	

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8. Medical attention MUST be sought when skin penetration is expected whether or not there are symptoms present.	
9. The employee must be adequately trained and competent to operate in the area in which they are to work.	
10. Newly trained staff should be supervised until a suitable level of competency has been achieved.	

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	3	X	Likelihood	2	= Risk	6
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Approval and Review		
Prepared by:	Cathy Sheehan	01/09/2020
Updated by	Ash Soliman	04/10/2024
Review by:	Ash Soliman	04/10/2024

RISK RATING = L x S			Hazard Severity (S)				
			1	2	3	4	5
Likelihood (L)	1	Very Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
	2	Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	3	Possible	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	4	Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	5	Very Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH

Likelihood	
1. Very Unlikely	A freak combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
2. Unlikely	A rare combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
3. Possible	Could happen when accidental factors are present but otherwise unlikely
4. Likely	Not certain to happen but an additional factor may result in an accident/incident
5. Very Likely	Almost inevitable that an accident/incident would occur
Hazard Severity	
1. Negligible	Negligible injury, no absence from work
2. Slight	Minor injury requiring first aid
3. Moderate	Injury leading to a lost time accident
4. High	Involving a single person with a serious injury / death
5. Very High	Multiple persons with serious injury / death
Outcomes	
LOW	Score (1-6) May be acceptable. Annual Review to see if risks can be reduced further
MEDIUM	Score (8-10) Identify controls must be identified or specific method statement required
HIGH	Score (12-25) Task <b>must not</b> proceed. Senior Management to consider if the risks can be reduced by purchase of additional training, additional equipment, additional staff, additional signage, safe system of work, permit to work or radical changes in method.

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