

COSHH Essentials: from concept to one stop system

Michael Topping
Health Directorate
HSE

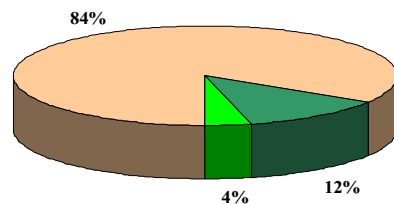
Small firms and health risks from chemicals

Research shows:

- Very limited understanding of legal requirements
- Wanted to be told what they do, and do not, need to do;
- HSE literature did not reach them;
- Distinctions government make between health, safety and environment are irrelevant to them.

Awareness of legal requirements all users

unaware/other comply with COSHH mention OELs

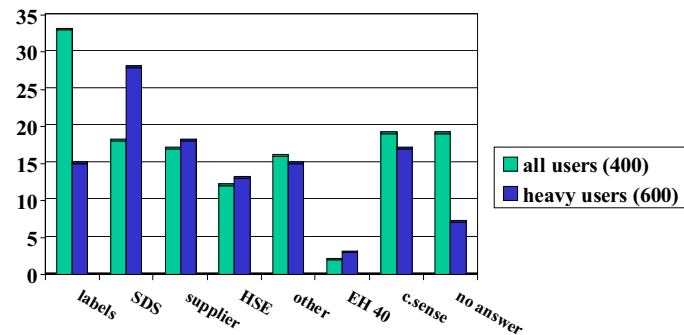


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Sources of information to establish if a substance is harmful



SOMETHING NEEDED THAT:

- gives practical advice and help
- makes best use of available hazard information
- is applicable a wide range of chemical uses
- is easy to use and understand
- uses information that is readily accessible
- answers the question: what do I have to do?

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What is COSHH essentials?

- Guidance on the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1999
- Practical - plain English - no technical terms
- Step by step risk assessment
- Provides solutions - identifies adequate control
- Points to when expert help is needed

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COSHH Essentials pack

Contains

- step by step risk assessment guide
- 60 illustrated control guidance sheets
- leaflets introducing the COSHH and CHIP regulations

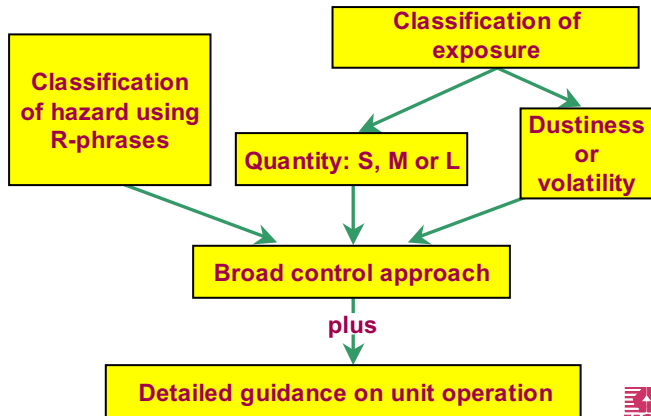
Also available

- technical basis (for expert users)

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THE METHOD IN OUTLINE



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HAZARD CLASSIFICATION - step 2A

Hazard band	Examples
A	Skin and eye irritants
B	Harmful on single exposure
C	Severely irritating and corrosive. Skin sensitisers
D	V. toxic on single exposure. Harmful to reproduction
E	Cause cancer by genetic damage. Cause occupational asthma
S	Harm by skin or eye contact

Selection on basis of R-phrases. Guidance shows how.

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EXPOSURE CLASSIFICATION - Steps 2 B/C

	Solid	Liquid
Quantity	S: gram quantities M: kilogram quantities L: tonnes	S: millilitre quantities M: litre quantities L: cubic metres
Dustiness or volatility	L: non-friable, pellet-like solids M: crystalline, granular solids H: fine, light powders	L, M or H depending on comparison of BP and process temp. Guidance gives chart.

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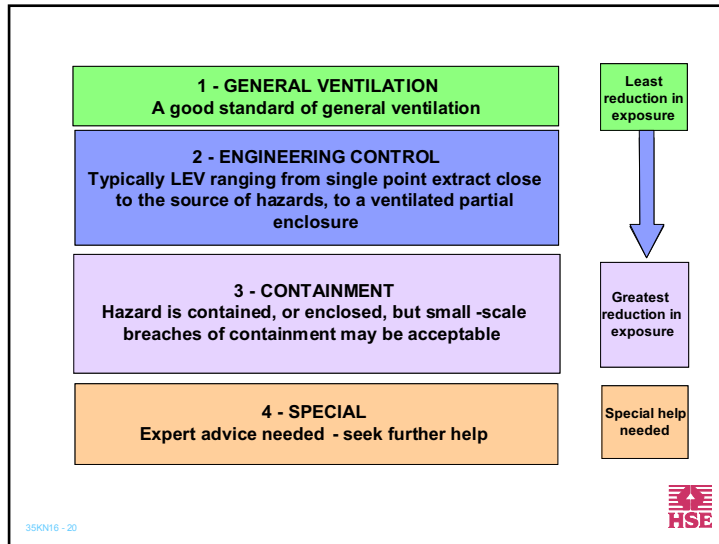


Quantity	Low dustiness or volatility	Medium volatility	Medium dustiness	High dustiness or volatility
S	1	2	1	2
M	2	3	3	3
L	2	4	4	4

Same method for other hazard groups

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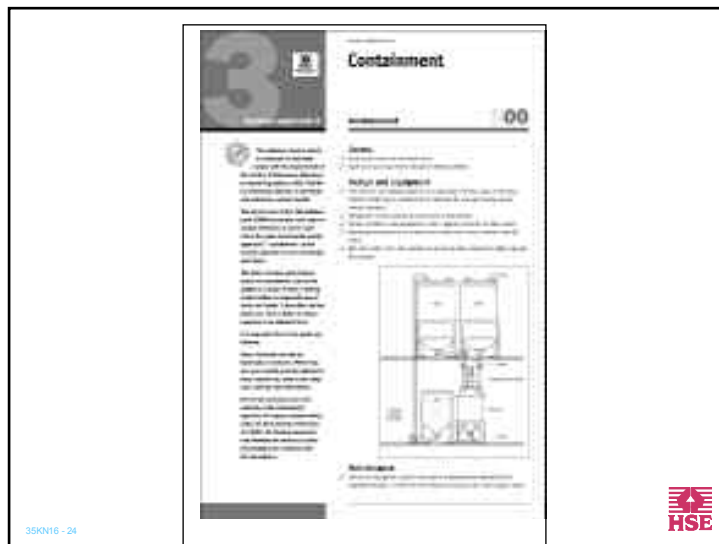


CONTROL APPROACH GUIDANCE SHEETS

All cover:

- access
- design and equipment
- maintenance
- examination and testing
- cleaning and housekeeping
- PPE (see additionally control approach S)
- training
- supervision

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Evaluation of COSHH Essentials

- Telephone survey of 500 purchasers:
 - ✓ 80% of purchasers have used it;
 - ✓ Only 5% found it fairly difficult to use;
 - ✓ 75% have taken action;
 - ✓ 94% would recommend it to other businesses.

e-COSHH Essentials

- Risk assessment framework unchanged
- Launched 30 April 2002
- Available free on the Internet
- Easy to use
- High profile publicity campaign

eCOSHH Essentials- user statistics

- Visits – 65,800
 - Unique visitors – 18,430
 - Assessments completed - 25,557
- Typical comments
- ✓ I found it very helpful and user friendly
 - ✓ The new website looks really great
 - ✓ I feel it would be useful to make a hyper -text link from our site to yours

e-COSHH ESSENTIALS

www.coshh-essentials.org.uk

Note: the demonstration has been removed from this online version of the presentation – visit the site given above for a worked example



“One Stop” System for the Control of Chemicals *Chemical Essentials*

- Joint HSE/Environment Agency Project
- Funded by Treasury Invest to Save Budget



Invest to Save Budget

- Joint projects to improve public services
- £250k over 2 years for staff resources and research
- Product accessible through DTI SBS portal
- Updates on website -www.isb.gov.uk



Vision

- Internet tool – freely available
- Integrated health, safety and environmental advice
- Practical targeted advice
- Links with other relevant guidance
- Easy to use
- Widespread use
- More effective compliance

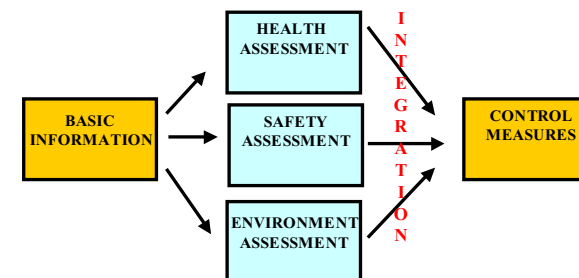


Final Product

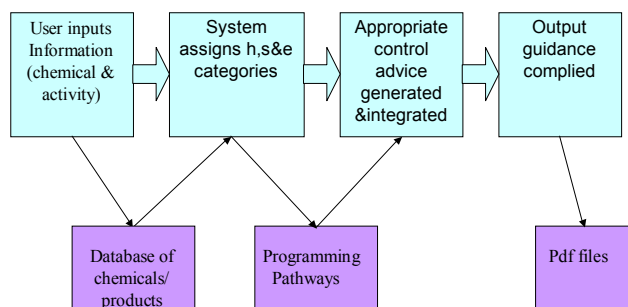
- Technically robust:
 - delivers accurate advice
 - software safety critically tested
- Rigorously tested to ensure:
 - guidance meets users needs
 - guidance in plain English
 - system easy to use
- Accessible from many sources



Risk Assessment Framework



Risk Assessment Framework



Chemical Essentials – Inputs



Minimise as far as possible

- Information on chemical or product
 - Safety data sheet or
 - database to supply:
 - Hazard data
 - Physical/chemical properties
- Information on task or process
- Amounts used and stored on site

Risk Assessment Framework



- Covers
- Scope of the system
- Risk assessment process
 - Basic principles
 - Categories needed
 - Process for generating and integrating advice
- Type of guidance produced
- User input information
- Database requirements

Project Timetable



- Publish draft risk assessment framework for comment – January 2003
- Finalise risk assessment framework –July 2003
- Draft guidance – Jan – Oct 2003
- Conversion to electronic system
Spring 04---

Ultimate goal

Fully integrated system of advice
on chemical control freely
available on the Internet