

HSE (2002). “Control of substances hazardous to health regulations”.

LINK – http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/ocs/200-299/273_20/

This OC provides general guidance on the COSHH Regulations 2002, as amended which came into force 17 January 2005 with respect to restrictions relating to cement and a revision of the disapplication of COSHH to merchant ships, and on 6 April 2005 for the other amendments. It also explains the FOD enforcement policy in this area. There are several related OCs and Sector Information Minutes (SIMs) on the Intranet that provide further guidance on more specific areas of COSHH – see Table 2

Key messages

Prevention is still paramount. This first step when dealing with hazardous substances is to check if there is safer alternative that can be used. Only then should the Hierarchy of Control and the principles of good practice, be applied.

Dutyholders should concentrate on improving control of exposure using the systematic application of the principles of good practice rather than compliance with a limit. If the Principles are followed the limits should not be exceeded.

For information on good practices for standard processes go to the COSHH Essentials website. The website not only provides guidance on good practice, but a step-by-step package helps to identify what adequate control means in specific situations. The site also helps points out when expert help is needed. More recent guidance, such as spraying isocyanates in MVR, printing and welding is task-based.