

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulation is the main piece of legislation, covering the control of the risks to employees and others arising from exposure to harmful substances generated or connected with any work activity under the employer's control. The main objective of the legislation is to reduce occupational ill health by setting a concise framework for controlling hazardous substances in the workplace.

What are Hazardous Substances?

- Substances used directly in work activities – cleaning agents, paints, adhesives
- Substances occurring naturally – grain dust
- Substances generated during work activities – fumes from welding
- Biological agents – bacteria and other micro-organisms

Exposure to hazardous substances can occur through breathing them in, contact with the skin, splashing them into the eyes or swallowing them. Illnesses can include cancer, asthma, dermatitis and in extreme cases death. Employers have a responsibility to their employees to prevent them coming into direct contact with the hazardous substances by providing them with the correct personal protection equipment.

Key Features of Control of Substances Hazardous to Health:

- The employer is required to assess the risks to health arising from hazardous substances at work and deciding what action is required
- Prevent or adequately control exposure
- Ensure that control measures are used, maintained and tested
- Carry out health surveillance
- Ensure that employees are informed, trained and supervised
- Employees should be provided with appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)

Solutions available from Buckhickman InOne

- Eyes – safety glasses, goggles, visors, face screens (2007/8 catalogue pages 1594 - 1610)
- Head – A full range of helmets and bump caps (2007/8 catalogue pages 1590 - 1594)
- Respiratory – respirators, half masks, full masks, powered respirators (2007/8 catalogue pages 1611 - 1628)
- Body – overalls, boiler suits, high-visibility clothing, aprons, flame retardant clothing, chemical suits, disposable clothing (2007/8 catalogue pages 1629 – 1725)
- Hands and Arms – gloves, gauntlets, mitts, wrist cuffs, armlets (2007/8 catalogue pages 1726 - 1751)
- Feet and Legs – safety boots and shoes, gaiters, leggings, spats (2007/8 catalogue pages 1752 - 1780)

For more information on Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002 visit:
www.hse.gov.uk/coshh