



# HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES & DANGEROUS GOODS



To be truly effective, health and safety has to be an everyday process supported by all as an integral part of workplace culture.

*Health + Safety Executive, The UK national independent watchdog for work-related health, safety and illness.*

If your company deals with Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods, then you are well aware of the safety risks to your workers and the environment in terms of handling and storage.

## Definition

OHS regulations refer to Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods whilst the model WHS regulations combine them together under the name of Hazardous Chemicals. Hazardous substances are defined in terms of their direct health effects on people whereas dangerous goods are defined by their physical and chemical properties. Combined, and known as Hazardous Chemicals, they are substances, mixtures and articles that can pose a significant risk to health and safety if not managed correctly.

## Your Duty in Relation to Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods

Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods are covered by separate legislation which focus on controlling the different risks associated with them. Many hazardous substances are also classified as dangerous goods which means that both pieces of legislation apply to these. You have a duty to identify, assess and then eliminate or reduce any risks associated with hazardous substances or dangerous goods.

## Key Messages

▶ Hazardous Substances can be extremely dangerous to people, the environment + property.

▶ The hazards associated with the storage, handling and transport of Dangerous Goods should be identified and controls implemented.



## Did you know?

- ▶ Dangerous Goods stored in workplaces may need placarding or a manifest to be maintained.
- ▶ Dangerous goods may require physical separation from people, places or property
- ▶ Workers require safe systems of work and adequate information, instruction and training in the storage, use and transport of Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods.

### Keep on top of Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods to avoid incidents

Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods are part of many workplaces. Inadequate storage and handling or transport can result in significant incidents and injuries.

If your workplace has Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods you are responsible for:

- Determining the safe storage and handling requirements
- Ensuring adequate placarding and labelling
- Providing access to SDS's
- Controlling the risk
- Informing and training staff
- Reviewing the risk controls regularly
- Revising controls when necessary
- Emergency preparedness, including having an emergency plan

The good news is that there are several solutions for eliminating or controlling exposure to Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods which can be readily implemented such as:

- Substituting another product in its place
- Reducing the usage
- Isolating storages
- Providing personal protective equipment

We believe that a culture of safety is a combination of good sense and good management. JTA's professional and highly experienced safety consultants can advise on the management of Hazardous Substances & Dangerous Goods in your workplace, identifying potential risks and how to manage these effectively.

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