



# HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS



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 Chemicals, 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 Chemicals

Since January 2017, the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) has been adopted by Safe Work Australia as the basis for classification, safety data sheets and labels of chemicals and mixtures. You have specific duties under the model WHS Regulations and OHS regulations to manage the risks to health and safety associated with using, handling, generating and storing hazardous chemicals at your workplace. Failure to do so is a breach of the law.

## Key Messages

▶ Hazardous Chemicals 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 Chemicals.

### Keep on top of Hazardous Chemicals to avoid incidents

Hazardous Chemicals are part of many workplaces. Inadequate storage and handling or transport can result in significant incidents and injuries.

If your workplace has Hazardous Chemicals 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 Chemicals 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 Chemicals in your workplace, identifying potential risks and how to manage these effectively.

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