



COSHH Storage Guidance

Guidance

COSHH is the law that requires employers to control substances that are hazardous to health. You can prevent or reduce workers exposure to hazardous substances by:

- finding out what the health hazards are;
- deciding how to prevent harm to health (risk assessment);
- providing control measures to reduce harm to health;
- making sure they are used;
- keeping all control measures in good working order;
- providing information, instruction and training for employees and others;
- providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases;
- planning for emergencies.

Identifying COSHH

Products you use may be 'dangerous for supply'. If so, they will have a label that has one or more hazard symbols (see right). For the vast majority of commercial products, the presence (or not) of a warning label will indicate whether COSHH is relevant.

These products include common substances in everyday use such as fuels, paints, or adhesives. When a product is 'dangerous for supply', by law, the supplier must provide you with a safety data sheet (SDS).

Check SDS to identify the associated risk of the product.

GHS - Hazard Pictograms and Related Hazard Classes		
		
Expanding Bomb <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explosives• Self-reactives• Organic Peroxides	Corrosion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Skin corrosion/burns• Eye damage• Corrosive to metals	Flame Over Circle <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oxidizing gases• Oxidizing liquids• Oxidizing solids
		
Gas Cylinder <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gases under pressure	Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aquatic toxicity	Skull & Crossbones <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acute toxicity (fatal or toxic)
		
Exclamation Mark <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irritant (eye & skin)• Skin sensitizer• Acute toxicity• Narcotic effects• Respiratory tract irritant• Hazardous to ozone layer (non-mandatory)	Health Hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carcinogen• Mutagenicity• Reproductive toxicity• Respiratory sensitizer• Target organ toxicity• Aspiration toxicity	Flame <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flammables• Pyrophorics• Self-heating• Emits flammable gas• Self-reactives• Organic peroxides

Storage of COSHH

- ✓ Restrict access to the store (keep it locked)
- ✓ Clearly label containers, provide signage
- ✓ Provide sufficient space, keep well organised, well lit and well ventilated
- ✓ Provide impervious floor or bund
- ✓ Eliminate or control ignition sources
- ✓ >10m from drains, gullies etc. and have suitable spill kits for the products being used



Do not store incompatible items together (items with similar hazardous properties can be stored together) e.g. do not store flammable substances with oxidizing substances or gas cylinders.

Typical COSHH items and their storage requirements

- **Petrol / diesel** – containers (metal/jerry cans) must be labelled and stored within a lockable COSHH store/container or ventilated petrol cabinet and provided with secondary containment (i.e. bund). When in use on-site (i.e. not in storage) they must be placed on an [Enviropad](#) to capture any drips and/or leaks.
- **Adblue** – must be labelled and stored within COSHH store/container and provided with secondary containment. This must be polyethylene owing to the corrosive nature of adblue. If stored outside i.e. within a drum or IBC, this must be stored on a bund and be covered to prevent rainwater ingress.
- **Lubricants** – within COSHH store/container with secondary containment / bund.
- **Curing agents** – stored within COSHH container/store with secondary containment / bund.
- **Gas bottles** – must be stored in a locked cage

Adblue - examples of acceptable storage



Adblue IBC stored inside covered bunded storage system



Adblue IBC stored inside covered bunded storage system



200L drums of Adblue stored inside covered bunded storage system

Small fuel containers/plant



Labelled metal jerry can



Small plant and jerry can stored on Enviropad