

THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ONLINE 2021

28-29th April, 2021



**SOUTHALLS**  
A CITATION BUSINESS

# COSHH COMPLIANCE

REDUCING YOUR  
CHEMICAL-RELATED RISKS



# Meet your speakers



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# AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

01

Does anyone get caught out?

02

What is COSHH ?

03

Identify all chemicals/substance

04

Which are hazardous?

05

Assessment: How to complete  
an effective COSHH assessment

06

Applying to management  
system and process



# Chemical safety cases

- Chemical spill in a factory
  - Up to 200 litres of a preparation fluid (included hydrofluoric acid)
  - Issues with clean up
    - Asthma attacks, headaches, etc.
    - RPE wrong filters and no face fit
    - Poor emergency planning and inadequate assessments
  - Fined £13, 000 and £9511 costs
- Chemical preparation in a furniture warehouse
  - Explosive atmosphere
  - No COSHH or DSEAR assessments
  - RPE faulty or damaged
  - No controls for wood dusts and solvent emissions
  - Inspectors served prohibition notice
  - Fined £398,000 and £94,404 costs





# How can businesses get caught out?

- SDS does not equal an assessment
- Failing to properly identify all substances
- By-products
- Biological
- Poor, out-of-date, information
- Lack of emergency procedures
- Lack of training
- PPE use
- Rushing to the bottom of the hierarchy of control

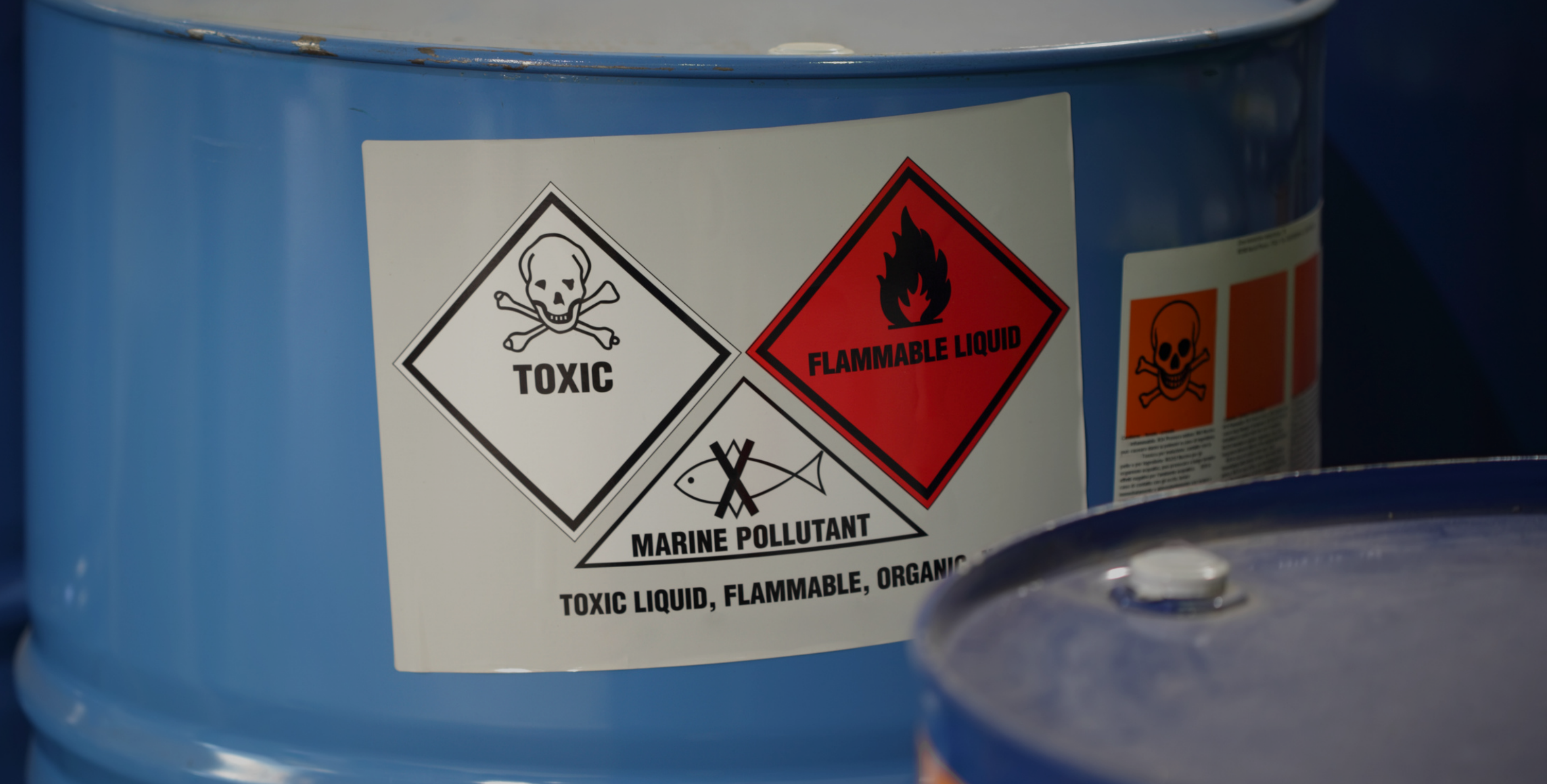




# Have you missed anything?

- Wood dust
- Swarf
- Flour dust
- Diesel/process fumes
- Soiled clothing (e.g. care settings)
- Legionella
- Metal working fluids
- Welding fumes
- Coronavirus tests?
- DSEAR (Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations)





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Doing the COSHH assessment



# Assessors' Competence

- Facilities and authority
- Time
- Understand regulations
- Gather information - systematically
- Know your limits
- Make a report
- Internal or external?



# Five steps to completing a COSHH assessment



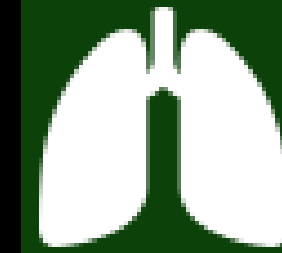
# Sources of information

- SDS - current?
- Observations
- Interviews
- Health data
- HSE
- Industry association
- Trial runs



# How do substances affect our health?

- Five main routes of exposure.
- Have these all been considered?



INHALATION

1



INGESTION

2



ABSORPTION

3



INJECTION

4









CONTAMINATED  
CLOTHING

5

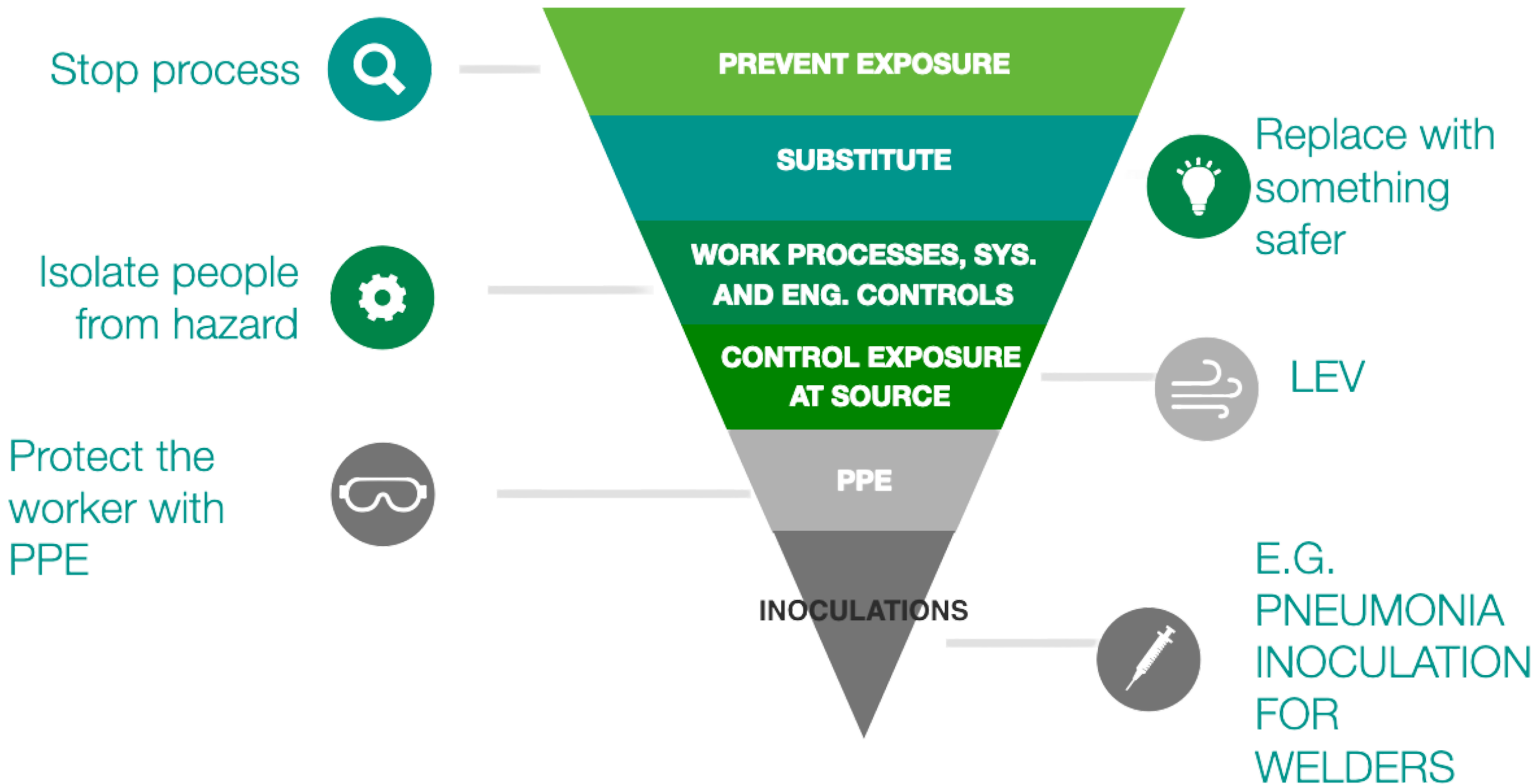
# ...don't just think about "health"



Physical Hazards				
				
Explosives	Flammable Liquids	Oxidising Liquids	Compressed Gases	Corrosive to Metals
Health Hazards				Env. Hazards
				
Acute Toxicity	Skin Corrosion	Skin Irritation	Serious Health Hazard	Hazardous to the Environment



# Hierarchy of control





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**Assess exposure - questions to consider?**



# What's been updated?

- **Who do I need to protect?**
  - Workers
  - Visitors
  - Children
  - Pregnant women
  - Neighbours
- **What's the potential to cause harm?**
- **What's the likelihood of exposure?**
- **What's the frequency of exposure?**
- **What are the levels of exposure?**



# Look out for shortcuts!



- How are things really done?
- Be honest - what “workarounds” might you have used?
- Accident and near-miss records?



# Records

- Written - 5 or more employees
- May need to justify use/omission of a control
- Detail proportionate to risk
- Useful, meaningful, easy to understand
- Needs to be about what you do
- Not what the SDS says should/could be done
- Template - does it allow for you to consider the physical hazards too

Company name: Engineering workshop - fittings  
 Department: Turning lathe  
 Date assessment made:  
 Date discussed with employees:

Step 1 Substance	Step 2 What harm, and why?	Step 3 What are you doing already?	Step 4 What improvements do you need?	Step 5 Action		
What's the hazard?				Who	When	Check
Oil-based fluid + fines (sump, 4 lathe) - skin contact	Dermatitis from high-refined oil, damage from fines	0.4 mm nitrile gloves* fluid stops when machining stops	Improve washing facilities, get skin-care products			
		Check oil, temperature, fines <100 ppm, once a week	Daily appearance checks, fit sump thermometer			
Skin contact with swarf	Skin damage	Change overalls once a week (to laundry)	Keep oily rags out of pockets			
	Metallworkers, swarf removal	Thick protective gloves	Get tongs			
Skin contact - sump cleaning	Skin damage, contamination					
	Sump Cleaner	Permit to work, chemical gloves				
Skin contact - degreasing	Skin damage					
	Anyone	Basket for parts washing	0.4 mm nitrile gloves*			

Action	Action taken	Action needed
Thorough examination & test - COSHH		
Supervision	Yes	
Instruction and training	Yes	
Emergency plans		
Health surveillance	Spills clearance	Practice
Monitoring	Skin checks	Improve record keeping


Step 5  
 Review date:

1. Review your assessment - make sure you are not sliding back.  
 2. Any significant change in the work? Check the assessment and change it if necessary

Other hazards needing attention: Cleanliness to avoid slips or trips. Manual handling, heat



COSHH Assessment - Softwood Dust

Assessed By	Ian Dunsford (Southalls) and 
Date	01/02/2021
Description Of Substance	Softwoods are pines, spruces, firs, etc. Dust is generated when we saw these, using cross-cuts, panel saws, etc.
Workplace Exposure Limits	Substance: softwood dust LTEL (8hr TWA ppm): - LTEL (8hr TWA mg/m3): 5 STEL (15min ref. period ppm): - STEL (15min ref.period mg/m3): -
Task / Activity	The cutting to length/size, using cross cut, table saw, panel saws, etc. for customers.
Suppliers Name & Address	Various
Risk / Hazard Phrase	N/A
Safety / Precaution Phrase	See comments box below.
Telephone / Fax No's	N/A
MSDS Attached	No

SUBSTANCE PROPERTIES



Irritant



Longer term health hazards

ROUTE OF EXPOSURE

PERSONS AT RISK

ROUTE OF EXPOSURE

- ☒ Eyes
- ☒ Inhalation
- ☒ Skin

PERSONS AT RISK

- ☒ Members of Public
- ☒ Other Workers
- ☒ Users of Product
- ☒ Visitors
- ☒ Young Persons

PPE REQUIREMENTS



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

General Precautions	• All employees, doing the cutting, are trained in how to use the saws correctly, including ensuring that blades are sharp. They are aware of how the LEV works and its day-to-day maintenance. • Operators are trained to use RPE. • Mills kept clean and tidy
Control Measures	• Only authorised persons are allowed, in the mill areas, when cutting is taking place. • Saws are maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. • Operators check for obvious damage before every use. • RPE is maintained in accordance with the suppliers' instructions (or disposed of at the end of their shift if single use) • RPE is kept clean and stored in a clean place. • Gloves selected that will offer protection against dermatitis, but will also detach from the hand in case of entanglement.
First Aid / Hygiene Arrangements	First aid Skin - clean with warm water and a mild skin cleanser. Provide pre-work creams and barrier creams. Seek medical help if rash, irritation or dermatitis develop/persists. Inhalation - Remove to fresh air if respiratory symptoms are experienced. Seek medical help if persistent irritation, severe coughing, breathing difficulty or other serious symptoms occur. Hygiene • No eating or drinking in the mill • Handwashing facilities on site.

# Monitoring

- What to monitor?
- When?
- Do you need specialist help?
- Environmental
- Exposure
- Set up a regime
- Health surveillance
  - Dusts
  - Fumes
  - Carcinogens
  - Biological agents
  - Solvents
- Communicate!

- Set targets
- WEL or in-house?
- Might already be monitoring?
- LEV reports
- Safety tours
- Maintenance records
- Accident and ill-health data
- Sickness and absence records



# Training and Competence



# Information, instruction & training

- Use information from SDS (WEL, storage, transport, hazard signage and use)
- Use information gathered from assessment (Hazards/Controls)
- Develop SOP/SSOW (How & Why processes are controlled)
- Make it clear and easy to understand (use pictures of procedures)
- Highlight significant risks (when storing/transporting, dosing/using)
- Quiz/Test to show trainees understanding of safe procedure
- Regular updates/refreshers

**Being trained does not make you competent.**



# Management & Supervision



Use the COSHH assessment/training to verify



Regular Internal/external auditing



On the job competency/observations

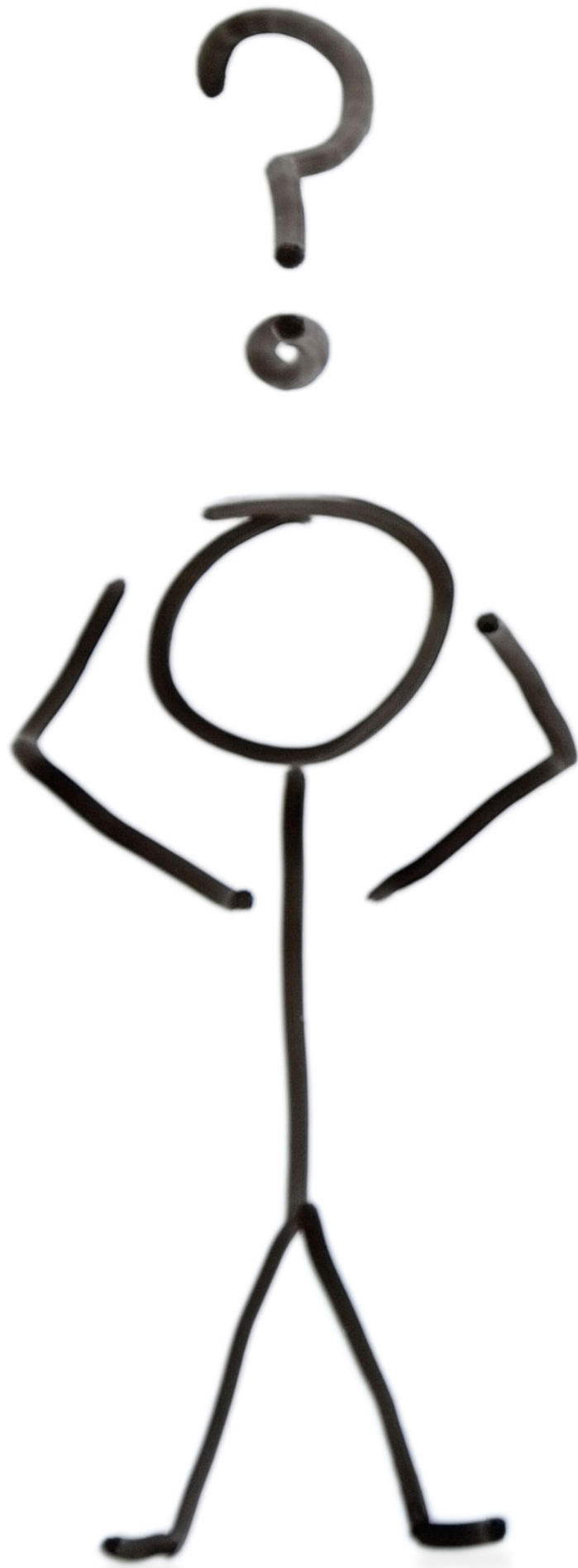


Overall management of the H&S management system



Can you evidence that the controls/training/good practice are being followed and are effective?





# Questions?



We've  
dedicated  
health and  
safety  
consultants  
who love  
making a  
difference for  
our clients.  
Talk to us today.



**SOUTHALLS**  
A CITATION BUSINESS

# CONTACT US

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