



Control approach 1



This guidance sheet is for employers including the self-employed and

franchisees to help them comply with the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) by controlling exposure to chemicals and protecting workers' health.

The sheet is part of HSE guidance *COSHH essentials: easy steps to control chemicals*. It describes the key points you need to follow to help reduce exposure to an adequate level. It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Get safety data sheets from your product supplier. Use these to identify the more dangerous chemicals, and less dangerous substitutes. Also check for flammability.

Hair products contain ingredients that can cause dermatitis. Some ingredients can cause asthma if breathed in.

General ventilation is recommended.

Exposure to substances which cause occupational asthma should be prevented, or if that is not reasonably practicable, control exposure to prevent workers from developing asthma. This applies to short-term high as well as long-term exposures. If an individual develops occupational asthma, exposure must be controlled to prevent triggering further attacks. Suitable levels are likely to be well below any exposure limit.

Caution: aerosol propellants (eg hairsprays) are often flammable.

Electrically powered equipment requires portable appliance testing (PAT).

Hairdressing

SR11

General ventilation

Design and equipment

- ✓ Keep the workplace well ventilated - 5 to 10 air changes per hour with a through draught.
- ✗ Don't store more than 50 litres of flammable liquid indoors. Use a flammables store.
- ✓ You need washing facilities for decontamination after handling products.

Procedures

- ✓ If possible, avoid dusty products - buy granules, pastes or solutions.
- ✓ Store products containing chemicals securely in a cool, dry, dark place, capable of keeping in spills. Don't store far more than you need.
- ✓ Read the instructions on labels carefully - follow the instructions for use.
- ✓ Keep chemicals off your skin - wash off any splashes immediately.
- ✓ Make up only as much solution as you will need for immediate use.
- ✓ Clean up spills promptly - practise how to do this.
- ✓ Dispose of safely all products you no longer need.

Special care

- Some ingredients in bleaches, permanent wave (perm) solutions and henna may cause asthma – check the safety data sheet.
- Try to avoid products that contain glutaraldehyde.
- Skin contact with many products (bleach, dye, perm solution, hair spray) can lead to skin soreness and itching, rashes and blistering (dermatitis). Some can cause eye damage and concentrates may cause burns.
- Long periods of work with wet hands can also cause skin disorders.

Maintenance

- ✓ Wash out mixing equipment after use. Dispose of this waste liquid safely.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Keep the work area clean.
- ✓ Clean up spills promptly - practise how to do this.
- ✓ Dispose of empty containers and wastes safely.
- ✓ Disinfect shower heads once a week.

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Ask your safety-clothing supplier to help you get the right PPE.
- ✓ Wear protective gloves - single-use nitrile gloves are acceptable. If you must use latex gloves, use only 'low-protein, powder-free' gloves.
- ✓ Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin protection and help in washing contamination from the skin. These are **not** 'barrier creams'. After work creams help to replace skin oils.

Health advice

- ✓ There is a chance of asthma developing through work with many types of hairdressing product.
- ✓ Check if the product label says 'may cause sensitisation by inhalation', and follow the advice in Control guidance sheet 402 – this also tells you about the early symptoms of asthma.
- ✓ Check if the product label says 'may cause sensitisation by skin contact'.
- ✓ Ask your workers to check their skin for dryness or soreness every six months. If these effects appear, check the proper use of skin creams and gloves.

Training

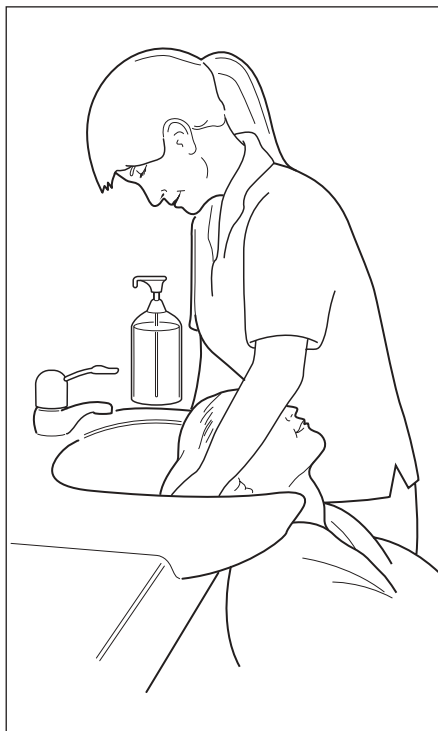
- ✓ Show your workers this sheet and check that they understand it.
- ✓ Tell them about the risks of using the product - see product labels or Section 15 of the safety data sheet from your product supplier.
- ✓ Make sure everyone knows how to clear up spills promptly and safely.

Supervision

- ✓ Get safety data sheets from your suppliers and identify the more dangerous chemicals. Consider substitution.
- ✓ An occupational health professional may suggest a surveillance programme for your employees.

Further information

- *Preventing asthma at work. How to control respiratory sensitisers* L55
HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0661 9
- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205
HSE Books 2001 ISBN 0 7176 1826 9
- *Preventing dermatitis at work: Advice for employers and employees*
Leaflet INDG233 HSE Books 1996 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 ISBN 0 7176 1246 5)
- Health and safety consultants: the BOHS Faculty of Occupational Hygiene keeps lists of qualified hygienists who can help you. Contact BOHS on 0133 229 8087 or at www.bohs.org/
- Occupational health professionals: details of doctors and nurses can be found in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services'. Also visit the NHS website at www.nhsplus.nhs.uk



Employee checklist

- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Wash your hands after use, and before and after eating, drinking, smoking and using the lavatory.
- Never clean your hands with concentrated cleaning products or solvents.
- Throw away single-use gloves every time you take them off.
- Check your skin regularly for dryness or soreness - tell your supervisor if these symptoms appear.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.



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