

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Procedure

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Written By	Rob Tyson	Authorised By	Mervyn Lambert
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Contents	Page
1 Introduction	3
2 Scope	3
3 Safety Procedure	3
4 Management Responsibilities	3
5 Procedure Objectives	4
6 Risk Assessment	4
7 Arrangements	4
7.1 Purchase of Hazardous Substances	4
7.2 Material Safety Data Sheets	5
7.3 Risk Assessment	5
7.4 Chemical (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply)	5
7.5 Storage	5
7.6 Disposal of hazardous substances	6
8 Personal Protective equipment	6
9 Training	6
10 References	6
11 Enquiries	6
12 Appendix A COSHH Assessment Template	7

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
Ref Number	MLP-HSP-008	Pages	9
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1 Introduction

Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd cares about the health and safety of its people and accepts its responsibility to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that supply; use and management of all substances, including gases and chemicals at work are safe and remain within current legislative requirements.

This document outlines the Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd procedure relating to requirements imposed by the Health and Safety at Work etc, Act 1974. The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 2003 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004 (COSHH) as amended.

2 Scope

This procedure identifies procedures for assessing all substances and chemicals that are to be used, and to control exposure to substances and chemicals by Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd employees, and all others who may be exposed; people at particular risk such as pregnant workers, young persons and temporary workers in the working environment. The working environment includes maintenance and repair, cleaning and construction activities.

The main hazards identified from the effects of hazardous substances include;

- Skin irritation or dermatitis as a result of skin contact
- Asthma as a result of developing an allergy to substances used at work
- Losing consciousness as a result of being overcome by toxic fumes
- Cancer which may appear long after the exposure to the chemical that caused it
- Infection from bacteria and other micro-organisms (biological agents)

3 Safety Procedure

All processes will be reviewed in accordance with the standard control procedures by complying with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004 (as amended). In the event of any identified risk of exposure, suitable monitoring will be carried out.

Elimination of risk is the key factor in all work activities and Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd Procedure reflects our customer's standards and safe systems of work.

This procedure outlines procedures and plans to remove or reduce the risk to Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd people and anyone who may be exposed.

The Health and Safety Manager will monitor changes in Legislation that may affect the procedure and arrangements for Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd.

4 Management Responsibilities

The Health and Safety Manager is responsible for the identification and assessment of risks to health, of any new chemicals and substances in their work areas and provision of sufficient time for information, instruction, training and completion of training records relating to the introduction of new products. He will ensure that appropriate equipment for application is available and that suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available for issue as required.

Managers or their delegate will be responsible for the dissemination of Health and Safety information relating to the use of chemicals and substances in the workplace, ensuring sufficient time for training and that instructions are understood. Additionally to report any misuse of existing or appearance of new chemicals or substances via uncontrolled sources and make proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), reporting any defects or unsuitable equipment.

Users of substances and chemicals must ensure their own safety and that of others by always adhering to the instructions for use by ensuring that all issues relating to the process and use of substances and chemicals are reported to their Manager.

5. Procedure Objectives

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
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The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires the following before considering any work involving the use of hazardous substances:

- The risks to health from hazardous substances used in or created by activities in the workplace must be assessed
- Work which could expose employees or others to hazardous substances must not be used without first considering the risks and the necessary precautions, and what else is needed to comply with COSHH.
- Employees must be prevented from being exposed to hazardous substances. Where preventing exposure is not reasonably practicable, it must be adequately controlled. A suitable and sufficient assessment must be completed and appropriate controls put into place.
- Control measures must be used and maintained properly and safety procedures are followed.
- If necessary, the exposure of employees to hazardous substances must be monitored. Appropriate health surveillance must be carried out where the COSHH Risk Assessment has shown it is necessary or specific requirements are set within the COSHH Regulations.
- Where necessary, plans and procedures to deal with accidents, incidents and emergencies involving hazardous substances should be prepared.
- Employees must be provided with suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training.

6. Risk Assessment

The Health and Safety at Work etc, Act 1974, The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 2004 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2004 (as amended), impose a duty on employers to:

- carry out suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks to health caused by hazardous substances connected with work.
- identify the hazardous substances present in the workplace I.e. -
 - products which have been supplied
 - those produced by a work activity, e.g. fumes, vapours, aerosols and waste materials;
 - and those naturally or incidentally present in the workplace, e.g. infectious agents carried by rats and pigeons.

The H&S Manager is responsible to complete a risk assessment for all activities which may pose a risk of exposure from work activities.

COSHH Assessments must also be reviewed and amended as soon as there is significant change in the work activity or whenever new substances are introduced. All amendments and associated control measures must be brought to the attention of people involved in the activity.

7. Arrangements

Compliance with the following arrangements will ensure the achievement of the Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd procedure objectives above.

7.1 Purchase of Hazardous Substances

The purchase of hazardous chemicals and substances is the responsibility of the Procurement Department. Individuals may not purchase substances without prior agreement from Line Management

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
Ref Number	MLP-HSP-008	Pages	9
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A definitive list of approved substances / suppliers should be reviewed and maintained. Ad hoc purchases required for specific short term work must have an accompanying Material Safety Data Sheet or access to Data Sheets via alternative routes.

7.2 Material Safety Data Sheets

Prior to any purchase of substances, a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) MUST be obtained from the supplier / manufacturer and forwarded to the Health and Safety Manager. If the substance is new, the Health and Safety Manager will review the MSDS and proposed activity use, complete a COSHH Risk Assessment, and permit purchase of it accordingly.

Manufacturers of substances and products must provide an MSDS under the CHIP Regulations. An MSDS tells you all about the substance and any hazardous properties it may contain, including:

- Trade names
- Ingredients (including any hazardous properties)
- First Aid procedures
- Risk Phrases relating to the product and Personal Protective Equipment recommended to be worn during use
- Hazard warning symbols if applicable – e.g. “Toxic”
- Fire fighting measures
- Waste disposal routes
- Relative legislation

This information is then used, along with other data, to make a COSHH Risk Assessment for the substance or product to be used at work.

7.3 Risk Assessment

The Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd Health and Safety Manager must ensure that suitable and sufficient COSHH Risk Assessments are in place and circulated appropriately. The Health and Safety Manager will ensure that assessments are completed using the Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd COSHH assessment form (**Appendix A**). The Health and Safety Manager will maintain a register of Material Safety Data Sheets and COSHH Assessments.

7.4 Chemical (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2005

Where applicable all chemicals and substances will be transported, labelled and contained appropriate to regulatory requirements

Storage quantities will be limited by contract arrangements to prevent bulk storage whenever practicable. Approved suppliers that provide chemicals and substances to Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd will supply Material Safety Data Sheets.

7.5 Storage

Hazardous chemicals and substances must be stored in locked cages or containers, and placed in well ventilated areas, in accordance with the COSHH Assessment requirements. All issues relating to the storage of substances must be escalated immediately to the Health and Safety Manager.

7.6 Disposal of Hazardous Substances

Although the COSHH regulations do not deal with the Environmental impact of Hazardous Substances, Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd Managers are advised to consider this when carrying out their COSHH Assessments and to ensure that arrangements are made for safe disposal of all substances.

Under Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act, ‘Duty of Care’ duties are placed on all producers of waste.

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
Ref Number	MLP-HSP-008	Pages	9
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8 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

The selection and use of PPE within Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd will depend upon findings related to suitable and sufficient Risk Assessments. Please refer to the Personal Protective Equipment Procedure.

9 Training

Any training relating to substances and chemicals used in the workplace must be approved and agreed by the Health and Safety Manager. Training may take the form of Toolbox talks, instructions from the suppliers or by formal process arranged with external training suppliers.

It is the responsibility of the Line Managers to ensure that their people are aware of the risks created by exposure to substances with which they work and any precautions that should be taken in both normal and emergency situations. The method by which the details of COSHH Assessments are communicated by Line Managers to their people depends on the relative risk presented by the substances involved.

10 References

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 2003 as amended

The Chemicals (Hazard Information for Packaging and Supply) Regulations 2005 as amended

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004

Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd Personal Protective Equipment Procedure


Mervyn Lambert Plant Ltd Waste Guide

11 Enquiries

For additional information regarding this document contact the Health and Safety Manager.

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
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12 Appendix A

Name of Hazardous Substance:					
Manufacturer/Trade Name (where applicable)					
Activity Substance is used for					
Description: e.g. solid, liquid, gas, vapour, etc					
Hazard data sheet attached:	YES/NO	IS Health Surveillance Required? YES/NO. IF YES Give Details Continue on separate sheet if needed			
Size of container or quantities in litres/kg	Litre 1	5 litre	10 litre	20 litre	Other specify
	1Kg	5Kg	10Kg	25Kg	
HAZARD					
					
Known exposure levels: (if applicable)	O.E.S.	M.E.L.	W.E.L.		
Likely route of entry to body: (tick all that apply)	Inhaled	Ingested	Absorbed by skin	Eyes	Other
First Aid:					
Eyes					
Skin					
Inhalation					
Ingestion					
Dealing with a Spillage					
Disposal:	Additional Advice available from:				
By Products:	Product Provider Tel:				

CONTROL MEASURES

Can the substance be substituted by another less harmful?	(tick as appropriate)	Yes	No
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Is monitoring required?	Provide details	Yes	No
Local exhaust ventilation required?	Is LEV tested and maintained	Yes	No
Is a documented working method available on safe use and handling?	Details held where	Yes	No
Storage restricted to minimum practical amounts unless otherwise stated	Storage restricted to	Secure store out of reach of service users and children	Store to be well ventilated
			Separate storage facility available or required
			Other
State any special requirements: (not listed above)			
Method of use. (tick as appropriate)	Use undiluted	Use diluted	Wash hands after use
			Do not mix with other products
Special or other precautions: (state)			

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT.			
			
Face Protection	Eye Protection	Dust Mask	Respirator
			
Overalls	Apron	Foot Protection	Gloves
 Safety helmets must be worn in this area	 Hearing protection must be worn		
Hard Hat	Ear Protection		

Providing that the above conditions are complied with the use of this Hazardous Substance can be regarded as having an **adequate level** of Risk Control.

Assessment carried out by (Print Name)

Signed

Date:

Next Planned Review of Assessment

Date:

Procedure Title		COSHH Procedure	
Ref Number	MLP-HSP-008	Pages	9
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Employee/ Operative Briefing Record

Name of Substance:

Declaration:

I/We the undersigned can confirm that we have been formally briefed on the requirements of this COSHH Assessment.

Name (Print)	Signature	Position	Date

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