

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

What is a substance hazardous to health under COSHH?

- *Substances or mixtures of substances, classified as dangerous to health under the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2002 (CHIP)*
- *These can be identified by their warning label and the supplier must provide a 'safety data sheet' for them.*

Many commonly used dangerous substances are listed in the HSE publication "Approved Supply List"

Suppliers must decide if preparations and substances that are not on the list are dangerous, and if so, label them accordingly.

Substances with occupational exposure limits.

- Biological agents (bacteria and other micro-organisms) if they are directly connected with the work such as health / personal care, farming sewage work etc.*
- Any kind of dust if it's average concentration in the air exceeds the levels specified in COSHH.*
- Certain asphyxiant gases, paints, pesticides etc.*

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)



What is not a substance hazardous to health under COSHH?



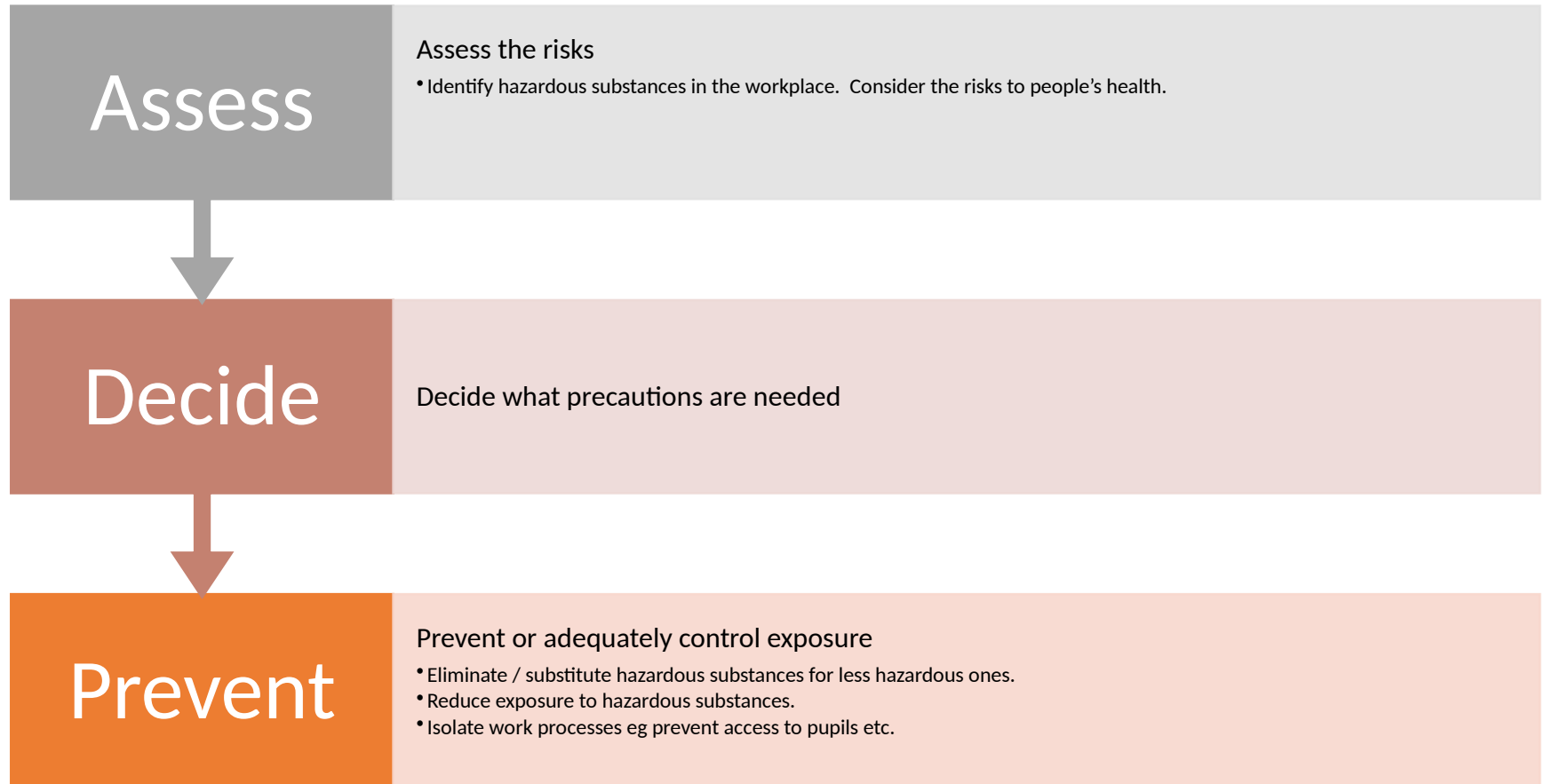
COSHH applies to virtually all substances hazardous to health except:



Asbestos and lead which have their own regulations.

- *Radioactive substances (other regulations apply)*
- *Biological agents that are outside the employers control eg. catching an infection from a workmate.*
- *For the vast majority of commercial chemicals the presence (or not) of a **warning label** will indicate whether COSHH is relevant.*
- *Examples:*
- *Washing up liquid has no label so you do not have to worry about COSHH.*
- *Bleach does have a label so COSHH does apply.*

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH)





Control exposure at source eg ventilation.



Provide personal protective clothing.



Step 4: Ensure control measures are used and maintained.



Step 5: Monitor and review.

Step 6

Arrange appropriate health surveillance where required
(exposure limits set)



Step 7

Prepare plans and procedures to deal with accidents,
incidents and emergencies



Step 8

Ensure that employees involved in the work or affected by it
are informed / trained and supervised

COSHH

- The **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations**
- (COSHH) (as amended) restrict the presence and use of substances in the workplace that are 'hazardous to health'.
- Employees must be given information, instruction and training on the use of such substances.



COSHH-What should you know?

- If you work with hazardous substances then you should be familiar with:
- the risks to health caused by exposure
- precautions which need to be taken
- use and purpose of control measures
- use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- emergency procedures
- results of any workplace monitoring
- your occupational health record.



COSHH

Action to take

- Both employers and employees have responsibilities under COSHH.
- Employees must:
 - co-operate with their employer eg, by attending training courses
 - participate in the risk assessment process
 - wear the PPE provided
 - report any problems with PPE
 - or other equipment
 - report non-compliance with safe systems of work
 - attend occupational health checks
 - always use control measures designed to reduce exposure.



How to identify a substance that is hazardous to health



- read the product label - hazardous substances are (generally) marked with one or more hazard symbols
- refer to information (safety data sheets) provided by suppliers
- ask for advice.
- ***Irritant*** ***Flammable*** ***Toxic*** ***Corrosive***
- ***If you have any questions or concerns about substances in use at***
- ***work, then you should speak to your supervisor or safety representative.***

COSHH

- **Legislation and resources**
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended)
- INDG136(rev4): Working with Substances Hazardous to Health. What You Need to Know About COSHH.