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مجلس الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا للترفيه والحدب السياحي
Middle East and North Africa Leisure & Attractions Council

LET'S TALK SAFETY – NOVEMBER 2022

BEST PRACTICES IN CHEMICAL HANDLING WITHIN WORKPLACE

*Written by: Mauritz Christiaan Janeke
Director – Environment Health Safety,
MIRAL Experiences*



In 2021 The Health and Safety Executive, a government agency in the UK reported that 1.7 million workers were suffering from work-related ill health. Despite all the regulations, rules and controls set out by authorities, the number of workers affected by their exposure to the environment in which they work, has kept on rising year on year. Employers must ensure they implement relevant and effective measures to protect their employees and the environment from harm. The following best practices are simple enough to implement and have been proven to be effective in doing just that.

Identify the risk and exposures to COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) considering the below aspects:

- Delivery and storage
- Usage
- Storage at location use
- Waste and disposal phase



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Delivery and storage



- Ensure safe transport, decanting and offloading facilities must be controlled as per chemical requirements.
- Make sure chemicals are labeled and identified correctly as per applicable international standards.
- Ensure chemical provider uses industry standards for correct packaging.
- Create separate and appropriate storage areas relevant for specific chemicals – flammable, toxic etc.

- Provide the correct fire detection and firefighting equipment in case of fire.
- Have in place the right neutralizing and adsorbent materials in case of spills.
- Provide sufficient emergency measures such as eye wash, emergency shower, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) at each storage location.
- Limit storage capacities to maximum allowances as per local regulatory authorities' fire risk and/or chemical manufacturers.





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Usage:

- Ensure users are competent to use the chemicals. Training should be implemented for beginners to understand changes in application and chemicals.
- Emergency measures for all points of use must be implemented.
- Spill kits, emergency procedures and plans to be in place as part of standard operating procedures.



- Labeling and containers should be objectively different for different chemicals, by colour, shape or size, specifically for F&B rated chemicals versus other cleaning chemical containers, i.e., degreaser for stoves should not be the same container as degreaser for engine parts.
- Reduce issuing quantity only to the required amount for limited exposure, i.e., don't issue from the warehouse what users will need for a month. This creates additional at use location storage requirements.
- Ensure PPE application and use is appropriate for the exposure and risk.



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- PPE elements have expiry dates and users and supervisors should have controls in place to reduce the risk of using expired PPE elements such as cartridges etc.
- Temporary storage and transportation of chemicals in a facility should be considered for additional risks. Use of trolleys, bins etc. should be optimised.
- Provide fire cabinets, fire detection and suppression appropriate to the risk posed by chemicals stored in facilities.

Waste and Disposal:

- Be aware of local regulatory requirements for COSHH waste.
- Plan, implement and review waste control measures about segregation, temporary storage and eventual disposal of waste containers and packaging.
- Ensure planning for fire prevention, suppression in waste areas as much as storage areas.
- Include the disposal of emergency waste materials and PPE in case of spill response.



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