



## Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH)

Volume 2 Issue 8

Newsletter Date: August 2010

ABC Health and Safety Ltd are now Registered to run the following courses. Spaces are limited so please contact us as soon as possible:

- **IOSH Managing Safely**

Next course:

8th/9th December 2010

Continued 15th/16th December 2010

- **IOSH Working Safely**

Next course

TBA

- **IOSH Managing Environmental Responsibilities**

Next course

TBA

- **NVQ Level 3 and 4 in Occupational Health and Safety**

If you would like any more information about any of the above courses please contact us: [info@abchsltd.co.uk](mailto:info@abchsltd.co.uk)

You are probably already aware of many risks in your trade or industry. A COSHH assessment concentrates on the hazards and risks from substances in your workplace.

**Remember that hazards and risks are not limited to substances labelled as 'hazardous'**

- Walk around your workplace. Where is there a potential for exposure to substances that might be hazardous to health? Examples include processes that emit dust, fume, vapour, mist or gas; and skin contact with liquids, pastes and dusts. Substances with workplace exposure limits (WELs) are hazardous to health.
- In what way are the substances harmful to health? Get safety data sheets, and read your trade magazines. Some substances arise from processes and have no safety data sheet. Examples include fume from welding or soldering, mist from metal-working, dust from quarrying, gases from silage. Look at HSE web pages for your trade or industry.
- What jobs or tasks lead to exposure?
- Are there any areas of concern, e.g. from the Accident Book? Examples include burns from splashes, nausea or light-headedness from solvents, etc

Safety data sheets provide information on substances that are 'dangerous for supply'. Other substances should have instructions for safe use.

By law, your supplier must give you an up to date safety data sheet for a substance that is 'dangerous for supply'.

**Keeping a copy of the safety data sheet is not a COSHH assessment!**

### HSE Myth of the Month - Health and safety bans bunting

#### The reality

There are no regulations banning people from hanging bunting at weddings and village fetes or flying flags for sporting events.

HSE encourages people to have a bit of common sense about their attitudes to risk, not to make everything risk-free. There won't be an army of inspectors cutting down bunting or insisting flags are lowered.

HSE exists to prevent people being killed or seriously injured at work, not to stop people celebrating in style.

**For other course dates for the rest of the year, please contact ABC on 01304 206228 or email on [info@abchsltd.co.uk](mailto:info@abchsltd.co.uk)**