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8.9.1 Requirements.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) require the STR to control substances in use throughout the railway that are hazardous to health by undertaking the following for each substance the following:

- Establishing if there are any health hazards when the substance is being used.
- Deciding how to prevent harm to health by undertaking a substance risk assessment.
- Implementing control measures to reduce harm to health when the substance is in use.
- Ensuring the substance is used in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.
- Maintain where appropriate any equipment used as a control measure:
- Providing information, instruction and training for STR staff & volunteers and others.
- Providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases.
- Planning for emergencies.

8.9.2 Arrangements.

Before any new substances are used during a work activity, a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) will be requested from the supplier and an appropriate assessment made of the hazards of that substance and the risks anticipated for the way the substance is intended to be used.

This will be carried out by the STR H & S Adviser


For any substances which are indicated to be hazardous on the MSDS, the STR H & S Safety Adviser will carry out a formal written assessment.

Alternative less harmful substances shall be used wherever possible.

COSHH assessments are also completed for other hazardous substance such as biological agents, fumes and dusts that may be produced during the operation of the railway with particular emphasis on material dusts.

Alston & Slaggyford are subject to a Legionella risk assessment carried out by a competent contractor with any reasonable recommended control measures implemented.

Written COSHH assessments will consider any Workplace Exposure Limits and hazards, details of use and potential exposure, persons exposed, exposure routes, safe handling and storage, control measures, first aid and any further actions required to minimise risks.

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The STR Health & Safety Adviser will brief STR staff & volunteers on any hazards and any control measures and precautions. Hazardous substances will only be used for the intended tasks as recorded on the COSHH assessment.

COSHH assessments are subject to formal routine review and are also reviewed as required in response to changes in work activities or equipment or to incidents.

Completed COSHH assessments and Safety Data Sheets are made available to all STR staff & volunteers via the STR SharePoint system and will be made available in various easily accessible formats to departments where appropriate.

8.9.3 Applicable Legislation.

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

8.9.4 References.

L5 Edition 6 2013 The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. Approved Code of Practice and guidance.

HSG 97 2004 A step by step guide to COSHH assessment.

INDG 136 Rev 5 10-2012 Working with Substances Hazardous to Health: A Brief Guide to COSHH.

EH40/2005 Workplace exposure limits:

Containing the list of workplace exposure limits for use with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

8.9.5 Documentation.

Material Safety Data Sheets.

Material COSHH Risk Assessments.

Legionella Risk Assessments.