



# TOP COMPLIANCE (Pty) Ltd

Your Business' Safety Is Our Concern

QSE B-BBEE - Level Four

[www.topcompliance.co.za](http://www.topcompliance.co.za)

March 2022 *NEWSLETTER*

## Contact details:

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## Chemical storage and poison prevention

Exposure to chemicals commonly used in workplaces can lead to a variety of short- and long-term health effects such as poisoning, cancers, skin rashes and disorders of the lung, kidney and liver.

Many employees regularly use hazardous substances such as chemicals, flammable liquids and gases in their workplace. A hazardous substance can take many forms, including gas, powder, liquid, solid or dust. The product may be pure or diluted.

Manufacturers and importers of hazardous substances are legally obliged to include warning labels and Material Safety Data Sheets with their products. This information offers advice on safe handling practices.

The [Hazardous Chemical Substance Regulation 2021](#) gives all the guidance as to the safety and legally requirements to manage chemicals at work.

## Common hazardous substances

Many industrial, agricultural and medical organisations use hazardous substances. The degree of hazard depends on the concentration of the chemical.

Common hazardous substances in the workplace include:

- acids
- caustic substances
- disinfectants
- glues
- heavy metals, including mercury, lead, cadmium and aluminium
- paint
- pesticides
- petroleum products
- solvents.

## Possible side effects of exposure to hazardous substances

Health effects depend on the type of hazardous substance and the level of exposure, concentration and duration of exposure. A hazardous substance can be inhaled, splashed onto the skin or eyes, or swallowed. Some of the possible health effects can include:

- poisoning
- cancers
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- skin rashes, such as dermatitis
- chemical burns
- birth defects
- disorders of the lung, kidney or liver
- nervous system disorders.

## **Labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for hazardous substances**

Manufacturers and importers of hazardous substances are required by law to provide warning labels and Material Safety Data Sheets for their products.

Employers must ensure that the Material Safety Data Sheets for each hazardous substance used in the workplace is available to employees, and that a central register of hazardous substances is established.

In accordance with the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) or other methods set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, warning labels on hazardous substances should feature:

- hazard pictograms
- signal words (such as danger and warning)
- hazard statements (such as fatal if swallowed)
- precautionary statements (such as wear protective gloves).

The GHS classifies and communicates chemical hazards using internationally consistent hazard pictograms, terms and information displayed on chemical labels and Material Safety Data Sheets.

The Material Safety Data Sheet lists important information on handling the product safely, including:

- Chemical Product and Company Identification
- Composition and Information on Ingredients
- Hazards Identification
- First Aid Measures
- Fire and Explosion Data
- Accidental Release Measures
- Handling and Storage
- Exposure Controls/Personal Protection
- Physical and Chemical Properties
- Stability and Reactivity Data
- Toxicological Information
- Ecological Information
- Disposal Considerations
- Transport Information
- Other Regulatory Information

## How to obtain a chemicals Material Safety Data Sheet

- Contact the manufacturer or supplier to give the MSDS of the chemical.
- Alternatively they can be obtained from most manufacturer websites.
- Google MSDS Handy Andy, Jik etc and check it is from the correct manufacturer.

Label all containers containing chemicals if being decanted as follows:

- Product name
- Supplier name and address
- Hazards – words and pictogram
- Composition
- Mixing instructions
- Constitution or concentration
- Uses
- Method to use
- Precautions
- Expiry date
- Batch number

## Suggestions on reducing exposure to hazardous substances in the workplace include:

- where possible, perform the task without using hazardous substances
- where possible, substitute hazardous substances with less hazardous alternatives (for example, use a detergent in place of a chlorinated solvent for cleaning)
- isolate hazardous substances in separate storage areas
- purge or ventilate storage areas separately from the rest of the workplace
- thoroughly train employees in handling and safety procedures
- provide personal protective equipment such as respirators, gloves and goggles
- regularly monitor the workplace with appropriate equipment to track the degree of hazardous substance in the air or environment
- regularly consult with employees to maintain and improve existing safety and handling practices.
- keep containers properly closed except when in use, including hazardous waste containers.
- do not eat, drink, store food, smoke, or apply cosmetics in areas where chemicals are in use except in clearly marked clean areas. Wash your hands frequently and before eating.
- keep loose hair tied back.

## Hazardous substances – written records

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations, certain records have to be maintained if hazardous substances are used in the workplace, including:

- details of risk assessments
- results of air and environment tests, if required
- details of health monitoring of employees, if required
- records of each employee who works with a scheduled carcinogenic substance at the workplace.

## Medical help for exposure to hazardous substances

- Prepare for accidents and emergencies.
  - Never work alone when hazardous chemicals are involved.
  - Prepare for spills. Clean up only very small quantities and only if you have been properly trained. All other spills should be cleaned up by specially trained personnel.

- Train personnel on how to use the spill kit, and when it is safe to do so.
- Know the locations of emergency equipment and how to use it:
  - First-aid kit
  - Fire extinguishers and fire alarm pull stations
  - Eye wash and emergency showers

### **If you suspect you have been exposed to hazardous substances:**

- In an emergency call for an ambulance immediately – 112, 084-124, 082-911
- First aid to be provided immediately by the workplace first aider.
- Contact the poison centre: 0800 111 990
- Notify the employer and safety representative.

### **Chemical safety at home:**

The most common sites of accidental poisoning in the home are the kitchen, the bathroom, the garage, and the workshop. This checklist may help your employees poison proof their homes:

- Are potentially harmful substances in the kitchen, such as cleaning products, furniture polishes, and drain cleaners, kept in their original containers?
- Are they stored away from food?
- Are they put up high and out of reach of children or kept in locked cabinets?
- Do medicines and other potentially harmful products stored in the bathroom have child-resistant closures?
- Have you thrown out all out-of-date medication and chemicals?
- Are all medicines in their original containers with the original labels?
- If your vitamin or mineral supplements contain iron, are they in child-resistant packaging? (A few iron pills may be fatal for a child.)
- Do all harmful products in the garage or workshop, such as charcoal lighter, paint thinner, pesticides and herbicides have child-resistant caps? Are they stored in their original containers? Are they stored up high and out of reach of children or kept in locked cabinets?

Millions of people are exposed to potentially poisonous substances at work and at home, many of those people end up in the hospital's emergency room every year, usually as a result of their own or a family member's carelessness. Some of the injured could be your employees or members of their family if they are not aware of the risks and the precautions required to prevent accidental poisoning.

<https://safety.blr.com/training/workplace-safety-training-sessions/hazardous-substances-and-materials/chemical-hazards/Pointers-for-Workplace-Poison-Prevention/>

<https://blink.ucsd.edu/safety/research-lab/chemical/general/index.html#Dispose-of-chemical-waste-accor>

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/workplace-safety-hazardous-substances>

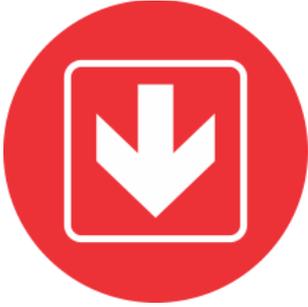
*Some of our training courses can be done through our virtual classroom.*

*Certain types of Risk Assessments and audits will be done by means of virtual site visits using various means of technology to virtually visit the site.*

*For more information please contact – [info@topcompliance.co.za](mailto:info@topcompliance.co.za)*

<https://www.topcompliance.co.za/index.php/products>



			
<a href="#">Medical equipment</a>	<a href="#">SANS Signage</a>	<a href="#">Legal posters</a>	<a href="#">Personal Protective Equipment</a>

**Courses offered by Top Compliance (Pty) Ltd**

<https://www.topcompliance.co.za/index.php/skills-development-head/training-calendar>

ONSITE TRAINING			
First Aid Courses:			Accreditation
<b>NEW</b> level 1 – <a href="#">US 119567 - Perform basic life support and first aid procedures</a>	2 days		DEL
<b>NEW</b> level 2 – <a href="#">US 120496 - Provide risk-based primary emergency care/first aid in the workplace.</a>	3 days		DEL
<b>NEW</b> level 3 – <a href="#">US 376480 - Provide first aid as an advanced first responder</a>	3 days		DEL
<a href="#">First aid: Level 1</a>	2 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">First aid: Level 2</a>	3 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">First aid: Level 3</a>	3 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">First aid: Level 1 &amp; 2</a>	3 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">First aid: Level 2 &amp; 3</a>	3 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">First aid: Level 1, 2 &amp; 3</a>	5 days		No longer recognised
<a href="#">Child and infant CPR &amp; choking</a>	6 hours		
<a href="#">Adult CPR &amp; choking</a>	6 hours		
<a href="#">Adult CPR &amp; choking and AED</a>	1 day		
Occupational Health and Safety Courses			
<a href="#">OHS Act &amp; SHERQ representative – Legal Liability</a>	1 day		
<a href="#">The Occupational Health and Safety Act &amp; responsibilities of management – Legal Liability</a>	1 day		
<a href="#">Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment</a>	1 day		
<a href="#">Safety representative course specific for COVID-19 in terms of the OHS Act and Regulation for Hazardous Biological Agents</a>	6 hours		
<a href="#">Food facility health &amp; safety course in terms of R364</a>	6 hours		
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses			

<a href="#">Basic firefighting (Fire marshal)</a>	6 hours	
<a href="#">Basic firefighting with emergency action planning (Fire &amp; Evacuation marshal)</a>	1 day	

ONLINE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM		
Occupational Health and Safety Courses		
<a href="#">Safety representative course specific for COVID-19 in terms of the OHS Act and Regulation for Hazardous Biological Agents</a>		07h45 – 11h00
<a href="#">OHS Act &amp; SHERQ representative – Legal Liability</a>		07h45 – 16h00
<a href="#">The Occupational Health and Safety Act &amp; responsibilities of management – Legal Liability</a>		07h45 – 16h00
<a href="#">Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment</a>		07h45 – 15h00
<a href="#">Food facility health &amp; safety course in terms of R364</a>		07h45 – 14h00
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses		
<a href="#">Basic firefighting (Fire Marshal)</a>		07h45 – 13h00
<a href="#">Basic firefighting with emergency action planning (Fire and Evacuation marshal)</a>		07h45 – 15h00