

COSHH ASSESSMENT — BITUMEN AND TORCH-ON FUME

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

Torch-applied membranes, hot bitumen boilers and mastic asphalt

KD-COSHH-BT-008 Rev A0

COSHH 2002 reg 6: exposure is assessed BEFORE the work starts; reg 7: it is prevented, or adequately controlled, working down the hierarchy — eliminate, substitute, engineer, then RPE last. This assessment covers the substance family below; it is completed against the actual products (their safety data sheets alongside) and the actual task, and briefed to the people exposed. The current workplace exposure limit, where one applies, comes from EH40 and the SDS on the day — write it in below.

1 ASSESSMENT DETAILS

SITE / PROJECT

TASK ASSESSED

PRODUCTS IN USE (SDS TO HAND)

ASSESSED BY

DATE

2 THE SUBSTANCE — WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

WHERE IT IS MET: Torching membranes, hot bitumen boilers and mastic asphalt laying. Exposure is the fume off hot material — highest with overheated boilers and in still air on warm roofs — plus severe burns from the material itself.

THE HARM: Bitumen fume irritates eyes and airways; long-term heavy exposure is a suspected carcinogen and is kept as low as reasonably practicable. The immediate killer is the burn: hot bitumen sticks and keeps burning — deep, contaminated burns.

3 EXPOSURE — ROUTES, PEOPLE, LIMIT

Inhalation — dust, fume, vapour or mist

Ingestion — hand to mouth

Skin and eye contact

Others affected — adjacent trades, occupiers, public

WHO IS EXPOSED, HOW LONG, HOW OFTEN

WEL / LIMIT (FROM EH40 AND THE SDS TODAY)

4 CONTROLS — IN THE REG 7 HIERARCHY, ALL IN PLACE BEFORE WORK STARTS

Boiler temperature controlled to the supplier's stated range with a working thermometer — fume climbs steeply when overheated

Position boilers downwind of the work and away from air intakes; workers upwind of the fume line

Gauntlets, face protection and full coverage when charging boilers or handling hot material — no wet gloves near hot bitumen

Burns treatment: cool with water for 20 minutes minimum, do NOT pull cooled bitumen off skin — it is a sterile dressing; hospital for anything beyond trivial

The hot works permit and fire watch apply to every torching task

SITE-SPECIFIC CONTROLS FOR THIS TASK

RPE WORN (TYPE, AND FACE-FIT WHERE TIGHT-FITTING)

OTHER PPE FOR THIS SUBSTANCE

5 HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, HYGIENE AND FIRST AID

No routine surveillance for controlled exposure; recurring respiratory irritation in the gang means the controls are failing — reassess.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Gas cylinders per the LPG assessment; bitumen blocks dry (water in a hot boiler erupts). Cooled waste bitumen handled as the SDS directs.

WHERE IT IS STORED ON THIS SITE

SPILL RESPONSE AT THE WORK

7 SIGN-OFF AND BRIEFING

The assessment is complete when the people exposed have been briefed on it. Reassess when the product, task, quantity or location changes — not on an anniversary.

ASSESSOR — PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

WORKFORCE BRIEFED (DATE / RECORD REF)

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	material	Actions the internal H&S director review. Lead reframed under CLAW 2002 and ACOP L132 with the COSHH reg 5 disapplication stated and limits prompted from CLAW; the silica harm line corrected to the defensible after-asbestos formulation; titles shortened so the header band prints in full.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.