

COSH H 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: Cutting rigid foam insulation with saws and hot-wire cutters, fitting it in floors, walls, roofs and cavities, and the offcuts and beads that follow. Hot-wire and hot-knife cutting releases fume; sawing releases dust and static-charged beads.

THE HARM: Foam dust irritates eyes, skin and airways; hot-wire cutting of polystyrene releases irritating fume; PIR and PUR are never cut hot — a hot blade chars them and the fume carries isocyanates. The boards are combustible and some burn fiercely with toxic smoke — a stack of insulation is a fire load and hot works near it is a known fire cause.

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

Cut with a fine saw or knife against a straight edge; hot-wire cutting of polystyrene only, with ventilation and the RPE the SDS names — PIR and PUR are never cut hot

Cutting outside the room being insulated where practical; vacuum up beads and dust as they are made

Eye protection and gloves; long sleeves for fitting in voids

Fire: boards stored away from hot works and ignition, quantities on the floor limited, the hot works permit checks for insulation before any torch

Offcuts bagged — loose beads and foam dust are an environmental nuisance and a slip hazard

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

None routinely; respiratory symptoms in hot-wire cutting crews investigated.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Covered, off the ground, away from ignition sources and site accommodation; not stored inside the building against a wall being torched.

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	2026-09-01	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-09-01	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.