

COSHH ASSESSMENT — ISOCYANATES

2-pack polyurethane coatings, spray foams and PU adhesives

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

KD-COSHH-IS-006 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: Two-pack PU paints and lacquers (the hardener is the isocyanate), spray-applied insulation foams, and some PU adhesives and sealants — worst in spray application, where the mist is breathed.

THE HARM: Isocyanates are the leading cause of occupational asthma in Britain. Sensitisation can follow a single bad exposure to spray mist; after it, minute exposures cause attacks and the career with these products is over.

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

- Substitute where possible — single-pack or water-based systems if the specification allows
- Spraying only with the controls the SDS and RAMS set: enclosed/ventilated area, air-fed RPE (filtering facepieces are NOT adequate for isocyanate spray), unprotected people excluded well beyond the visible mist
- Brush and roller application with ventilation and nitrile gloves; no eating or smoking with contaminated hands
- Mixed product and contaminated wipes sealed; the pot life respected — curing product in a closed container builds pressure
- Anyone with asthma symptoms after exposure leaves the task and is referred — same day, not next week

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

Health surveillance is required for spray users — lung function testing and questionnaires through occupational health; urine biological monitoring is the HSE-preferred check for spray work.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Hardeners sealed and dry (isocyanates react with moisture), away from heat. Empty packs of hardener treated as contaminated waste, not general waste.

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.