

COSHH ASSESSMENT — SEWAGE AND DRAINS

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

Drainage connections, pump chambers, groundworks in made or contaminated ground

KD-COSHH-BW-018 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: Live drainage connections, pump chambers and interceptors, groundworks in made ground, and any water contact where rats live — biological agents (leptospirosis, hepatitis, tetanus) plus whatever the ground history left behind.

THE HARM: Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) from rat urine in water and wet ground can be fatal and starts like flu; sewage carries hepatitis and gastro organisms; contaminated ground adds the site's chemical history. Cuts and hand-to-mouth are the routes.

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

Ground history checked before digging — the desk study and any contamination report are part of this assessment

Cuts and abrasions covered with waterproof dressings before work, every day

Gauntlets, eye protection and waterproofs for sewage contact; dedicated wash-down before breaks

No eating, drinking, smoking or vaping until washed; hygiene facilities at the work, not across the site

Flu-like illness after water or drain contact: tell the doctor about leptospirosis exposure — the card carried says it for you; tetanus cover current

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

Tetanus immunisation current for ground and drainage workers; leptospirosis awareness cards issued; illness after exposure reported and investigated.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Contaminated arisings stockpiled on and under sheeting, segregated, and disposed per the contamination assessment; wash-down water controlled.

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.