

COSHH ASSESSMENT — SOLVENTS AND THINNERS

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

Solvent-based paints, thinners, degreasers and contact adhesives

KD-COSHH-SV-007 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: Solvent-based coatings and primers, cellulose and white spirit thinners, degreasing wipes and contact adhesives — worst in poorly ventilated rooms, risers and tanks, where vapour builds unnoticed.

THE HARM: Short term: headaches, dizziness, poor coordination — an intoxicated person at height or with tools. Long term: dermatitis, and for some solvents organ and nervous-system damage. Vapours are usually heavier than air and most are flammable: an ignition hazard as well as a health one.

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 water-based products where the specification allows — the biggest single control

Ventilate: doors and windows open, forced ventilation in rooms and risers; never solvent work in a confined space without its permit and forced air

Quantities on the workface limited to the shift's use; lids on — an open tin is a vapour source all day

Nitrile gloves (checked against the SDS — some solvents defeat nitrile) and no solvent washing of skin

Ignition controlled: no hot works, smoking or unprotected electrics where vapour can reach

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

Symptoms (headaches, dizziness, dermatitis) in regular users investigated; biological monitoring only where the SDS or occupational health advise it.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Flammable store: ventilated, signed, away from ignition and site accommodation, quantities minimised. Rags soaked in some finishes can self-heat — dispose daily in closed metal containers.

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.