

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: The solvent hazard is in the Solvents sheet; this is the finishing task. Staining, varnishing and lacquering joinery and applying floor seals and lacquers, by brush, roller, pad and spray, usually in finished rooms with the doors shut. Sanding between coats adds dust to the vapour.

THE HARM: Solvent-based finishes cause headaches, dizziness and irritation, sensitise skin and are flammable; some lacquers are two-pack isocyanate systems and belong to that assessment. Sanding cured finish makes a fine dust of the finish itself. Water-based products still contain biocides and co-solvents that irritate.

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

Water-based systems substituted wherever the specification allows

Ventilate the room and the rooms the vapour reaches; solvent lacquering not done in occupied buildings without the ventilation and re-entry period the RAMS sets

Sanding with extraction and FFP3 RPE; vacuum clean-down between coats

Nitrile gloves and eye protection; no solvent washing of skin

Ignition controlled — no hot works, heaters or pilot lights in the area during application and flash-off

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

Regular users with respiratory or skin symptoms referred; two-pack lacquer users under isocyanate surveillance.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Solvent products in the flammable store; rags soaked in some finishes (oils and alkyds) self-heat — disposed of daily in closed metal containers or laid flat to dry outdoors.

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.