

SOLVENT-BASED FINISHES TO JOINERY

ACTIVITY RAMS — ADAPT TO SITE BEFORE USE

Oil and solvent systems · vapour in enclosed rooms · self-heating rags

KD-RAMS-PD-006 Rev A0

Statutory basis: HSWA 1974 s.2(2)(a) and MHSWR 1999 regs 3 and 5; COSHH 2002 for paints, solvents and preparation dusts. COSHH does NOT cover lead — lead in coatings is the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 with ACOP L132 (3rd edition, 2002), and HSE records that lead pigments were not removed from commonly used paints until the early 1980s. Work at Height Regulations 2005; CDM 2015 reg 15 (and reg 13 where a principal contractor is appointed).

1 DOCUMENT AND PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

RAMS REFERENCE	PROJECT / SITE REF	SITE NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE PREPARED	NEXT REVIEW DATE
CLIENT / PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR	PLANNED START	DURATION	OPERATIVES	SUPERVISING THE WORK

2 SCOPE OF WORKS

Application of solvent-based finishes to joinery and metalwork: primers, undercoats, gloss, eggshell, stains and varnishes, brush and roller applied in internal and external locations.

This document does not cover: spray application (KD-RAMS-PD-003), lead-suspect substrates (KD-RAMS-PD-002), and intumescent coatings (KD-RAMS-PD-005).

SITE-SPECIFIC SCOPE, LOCATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

3 RISK ASSESSMENT — SCORE EACH RISK FOR THIS SITE, THEN ADD WHAT IS MISSING

The hazards and controls below are the starting point for this activity, written by a working main contractor. They are not complete for your site until a competent person has scored each risk, added the site-specific hazards, and struck out anything that does not apply. Rate risks High / Medium / Low before and after controls.

1. Solvent vapour building up in an enclosed room

At risk: Applicators, occupants, other trades

Controls: Ventilation is established BEFORE the tin is opened and is maintained through application and drying — a room that was fine when the work started is not fine two coats later. Mechanical ventilation where natural airflow will not do it. Minimum quantity open at any time, lids on between coats. Ignition sources are controlled in and adjacent to the area for the whole drying period, not just while brushing. Anyone feeling headachy or light-headed stops and goes outside — that is over-exposure, not a hot day.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

2. Oil and solvent-soaked rags self-heating to ignition

At risk: Everyone in the building

Controls: Linseed and oil-based finish rags generate heat as they cure and have started fires hours after the gang went home. Every contaminated rag goes into a lidded metal bin at the workface as it is finished with — never a plastic sack, never a pile on the floor, never left on a window board. The bin leaves the building at the end of every shift.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

3. Skin contact with cements, plasters, adhesives and sealants

At risk: Operatives

Controls: COSHH assessments for every substance; gloves matched to the substance; barrier and after-work creams available; washing facilities close to the work; report skin problems early — dermatitis is a reportable trend, not a private nuisance.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4. Work at height from steps, podiums, towers or MEWPs

At risk: Operatives, and anyone below

Controls: Select access by the Work at Height hierarchy — podium or tower before steps; MEWPs by trained (IPAF) operators only. Inspect access equipment before use, establish an exclusion below overhead work, and secure tools and materials against dropping.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

5. Interface with occupants, other trades and the public

At risk: Occupants, other trades, the public

Controls: Segregate the work area — barriers, signage, sheeting; agree access routes and working hours with the occupier; never obstruct escape routes; deliveries and waste runs outside peak movement times where agreed.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

6. Slips, trips and housekeeping

At risk: Everyone in the work area

Controls: Keep the workface clear, remove waste and offcuts as they are created, route leads at high level or under mats, and maintain task lighting.

INITIAL (H/M/L)	RESIDUAL (H/M/L)	SITE-SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL CONTROLS, OR N/A	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

Site-specific hazards not listed above — every site has at least one:

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HAZARD	WHO IS AT RISK	CONTROLS	INITIAL HI...	RESIDUAL...	ACTION OWNER	BY WHEN

4 METHOD — SEQUENCE OF WORK

- 01 Check the product data sheets before the tins are opened; confirm ventilation is adequate for the room.
- 02 Establish ventilation — mechanical where natural ventilation will not achieve it — before any decanting.
- 03 Control ignition sources in and adjacent to the working area for the whole drying period, not just while applying.
- 04 Decant and apply with the minimum quantity open; keep lids on and containers closed between coats.
- 05 Place all oil and solvent-contaminated rags in a lidded metal bin at the workface, every time.
- 06 Remove the rag bin from the building at the end of every shift — it does not stay in the room overnight.
- 07 Store finishes and thinners in the flammables store, never in the working area overnight.

SITE-SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE SEQUENCE

5 PLANT, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

- Mechanical ventilation where required
- Lidded metal rag bins

- Podium steps and towers
- Flammables store

INSPECTION / THOROUGH EXAMINATION REFS

COSHH ASSESSMENT REFS

6 PPE — THE LAST LINE OF CONTROL, NOT THE FIRST

- Head protection
- Safety footwear
- High visibility

- Gloves — task-rated
- Eye protection
- Hearing protection

- Solvent-resistant gloves to the data sheet
- RPE where ventilation cannot achieve the limit
- Eye protection

RPE TYPE, FACE-FIT STATUS, AND ANY OTHER PPE REQUIRED

7 PERMITS REQUIRED BEFORE THIS WORK STARTS

A permit authorises this work in that place, on that day. It extends the safe system of work in this document — it does not replace it (HSE HSG250). The site issues the permit; record its number before work starts.

KD-PTW-PE-009 — Permit to Enter

For occupied buildings.

PERMIT NUMBER

KD-PTW-GP-003 — General Permit to Work

Where solvent use requires ignition-source control in the area.

PERMIT NUMBER

8 EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS — COMPLETE FOR THIS SITE

FIRST AIDER AND LOCATION

NEAREST A&E

ASSEMBLY POINT

HOW THE ALARM IS RAISED

EMERGENCY ACCESS FOR THIS WORK AREA

SPILL / ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

9 BRIEFING RECORD — EVERYONE WORKING UNDER THIS RAMS SIGNS BEFORE STARTING

By signing you confirm the contents of this RAMS have been explained to you, you understand the hazards and controls, and you will work to the sequence stated. Tell the supervisor if the work or the site does not match this document — work stops until it does.

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NAME	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE

10 PREPARED AND ACCEPTED

Prepared / adapted for this site by — I confirm I have adapted this document to the site, scored the risks, and that it describes how the work will actually be done.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE / COMPETENCE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Accepted for the site by — principal contractor or site manager review.

PRINTED NAME	ROLE	COMPANY	SIGNATURE	DATE	TIME

Review this RAMS if the work, the site or the law changes, and at least before each new phase of the works. Flatten the completed PDF before filing so the record cannot be silently edited.

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	2026-08-11	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-27	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from D0; 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.