

Hazardous Chemicals

Introduction

Most clubs use some hazardous materials. The ones most likely to be found in a rowing club include some cleaning chemicals, some resins and adhesives, some paints and petrol.

What are hazardous chemicals?

Hazardous chemicals are substances that have an intrinsic property such that they have the potential to cause harm to the health of a person.

If the label or packaging contains one or more of the following symbols, or older orange or yellow versions of these symbols, then assume that the substance is hazardous.

GHS01 Explosive 	GHS02 Flammable 	GHS03 Oxidising 
GHS04 Gas Under Pressure 	GHS05 Corrosive 	GHS06 Acute Toxic 
GHS07 Harmful / Irritant / Skin sensitiser 	GHS08 Carcinogen / Germ cell mutagen / Reproductive toxin 	GHS09 Hazardous to the aquatic environment 

If the packaging has any of the hazard symbols then it is classed as a hazardous substance.

Hazardous materials can include:

- chemicals;
- products containing chemicals;
- fumes;
- dusts;
- vapours;
- mists;
- nanotechnology;
- gases and asphyxiating gases; and
- biological agents (germs).

Some materials may not be harmful but the dust or fume produced from them may be hazardous.

What should the Club do?

It is important to study the way each of these materials is used and the way that it is stored.

If the material could be harmful then read the information on the label. This will advise on the hazards that will have to be managed when it is used at the club. It will also provide advice on how the material can be used safely.

Consider who can be harmed and how, and think about the probability of harm being caused and the severity of that harm. Use this information to identify opportunities for improvement and then implement those improvements. Repeat the process until the risk (i.e. that the combination of probability and severity) is low.

When considering storage then ensure that incompatible materials are not stored together (e.g. do not store acids with alkalis or flammable materials with oxidisers). Ensure that the storage facilities (e.g. cupboards) are secure, large enough to contain all the hazardous materials of the type being stored, and that they are well marked. Ensure that the storage facilities are located in safe areas, away from emergency evacuation routes, electrical distribution boards, gas equipment or piping and heating equipment.

Legal Requirements

The relevant regulation is the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#) (as amended in 2003);

If the club has five or more employees then documented risk assessments are required by law.

Further Information

For further information see

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/index.htm> and

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg136.htm>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2677/regulation/7/made>