

Information Sheet 11

**COSHH** 

- 1. Hazardous substances may be used in or created by any industrial process.
- 2. Do not ignore a hazardous substance warning.
- 3. It is a management responsibility to carry out a risk assessment to find out whether:
  - > Exposure to a substance can be eliminated?
  - Alternative work methods can reduce exposure?
  - > A less hazardous substance can be used?
- 4. Any substance with a hazard warning label has the potential to cause harm-assess the risk before using it.
- 5. You could be affected by a hazardous substance by:
  - Indigestion-eating contaminated food.
  - Inhalation-breathing harmful dusts or fumes.
  - Absorption- chemical entering through the skin or cuts.
- 6. Do not mix chemicals or substances.
- 7. Cement Dust: Can cause Dry-lung disease. Wet-burns.
- 8. Isocyanate (2 packs) paints: Can cause Occupational asthma.
- 9. When using hazardous substances, wear the correct PPE as per the COSHH assessment.
- 10. Know where the washing and first aid facilities are on site.
- 11. Dispose of unused materials or empty containers safely as per the COSHH assessment.
- 12. Read and comply with the information on the COSHH assessment sheet.
- 13. Do not eat, drink or smoke when handling substances.
- 14. Always wash hands at the end of each shift and before eating or smoking.

## **Questions**

- 1. Before using a substance, what should you consider?
- 2. Name the three ways a substance can enter your body?
- 3. Where can you obtain information about the hazardous substances that you are using?
- 4. What can you wear to protect against substances?