



WHY?

This FACT SHEET has been created by The British Sign and Graphics Association to:

Raise Awareness:

Emphasise the importance of COSHH Regulations compliance for safety, legal compliance, and accessibility.

Guide Compliance:

Share clear, concise guidance on achieving regulatory standards.

Promote Best Practices:

Highlight creative, functional solutions that balance safety with design.

Set Standards:

Establish benchmarks for safety, quality, and accessibility within the industry.

Provide Clarity:

Support industry stakeholders to align work activities with applicable regulations and end user requirements.

DISCLAIMER:

This document has been produced by the British Sign & Graphics Association (BSGA) for general guidance and advisory purposes only. It is intended to help clarify relevant compliance, governance, legislation, standards, and best practice within the sign and graphics industry.

While the content is published in good faith, it is provided without liability and is not intended to constitute or substitute legal advice. The application and interpretation of compliance, governance, legislation AND laws can vary depending on the specific circumstances. Therefore, users are strongly advised to seek appropriate professional or legal advice before acting or refraining from action based on the information contained in this document.

BSGA will not be liable for any decision made or action taken in reliance on this guidance, nor for any consequential, special, or similar damages, even if advised of the possibility of such damages. All information is believed to be accurate at the time of publication; however, the BSGA accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions, or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on the content.

All copyright and intellectual property rights in this document are owned by the BSGA. You may download and print this document for internal, non-profit use within your organisation. However, it must not be copied, reproduced, sold, distributed, or used for commercial gain, nor shared with third parties outside your organisation without the prior written consent of the BSGA.

Correct: September_2025
Created: David Derbyshire: Technical_Committee_Chair
Linda_Edwards_Managing_Director



The British Sign and Graphics Association

Northgate Business Centre
Northgate
Newark
Nottinghamshire
NG24 1EZ



K N O W L E D G E H U B :
C O N T R O L _ O F _ S U B S T A N C E S
H A Z A R D O U S _ T O _ H E A L T H _ (C O S H H)
C O M P L I A N C E



0845 338 3016



ask@uksigns.org



<https://uksigns.org/>

C H A M P I O N
C O L L A B O R A T E
C O M M U N I C A T E
C O M M U N I T Y
C O M P L I A N C E

RISK ASSESSMENT and CONTROL MEASURES:



Conduct a COSHH risk assessment for each hazardous substance:

Identify hazards and exposure risks (inhalation, skin contact, ingestion).



Review work activities: Printing, Cutting, Laminating.

Implement controls: PPE, ventilation, process changes.

Monitor health: Regular checks for employees exposed to hazards.



Control measures may include: substitution with safer products, engineering controls like ventilation and dust extraction, PPE (respirators, gloves, goggles, protective clothing), and safe storage with spill containment.

IDENTIFYING HAZARDS:

Common hazardous substances in signage include: Inks and Toners: Solvents, heavy metals, pigments.

Adhesives & Solvents: Can be harmful if inhaled or absorbed.

Dust: From cutting, sanding, or grinding materials like acrylic or aluminum.

Cleaning Chemicals: Risk to skin and respiratory system.

Always obtain **Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** for all substances to understand risks and requirements.



**DEVELOP CLEAR
COSHH PROCEDURES,
LABEL SUBSTANCES,
MAINTAIN SAFETY
DATA SHEETS, PROVIDE
HANDLING AND FIRST-
AID GUIDANCE.**

**PROVIDE TRAINING ON
PPE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSES.**

MONITORING, RECORD KEEPING and EMERGENCIES:



Regularly review control measures and monitor team member health:

Air exposure monitoring and health surveillance programs.

Maintain records: COSHH register, risk assessments, health checks, and training logs.



Emergency preparedness:

Provide well stocked first-aid and spill kits, and ensure team members know procedures for chemical exposure and containment.



EMPLOYERS ARE LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING, ASSESSING, AND CONTROLLING HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE RISKS; BREACHING COSHH REGULATIONS CAN CAUSE SERIOUS HARM TO TEAM MEMBERS AND POTENTIAL LEGAL ACTION..

Complying with key regulations, such as the **Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (SI 2002/2677)**, ensures that organisations and team members manage exposure to hazardous substances safely, protecting health, reducing workplace risks, and demonstrating professionalism and regulatory compliance (HSE).

Key Regulations and Guidance include:

Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (c.37): Establishes general duties to ensure health, safety, and welfare at work.

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/3242): Covers risk assessments, team member training, and organisation of health and safety.

Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/2966): Requires provision, maintenance, and correct use of PPE.

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER, SI 1998/2306): Ensures machinery and equipment are safe, maintained, and used properly.

Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 (SI 1992/3004): Sets minimum workplace standards for ventilation, cleanliness, and welfare.

Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/894): Governs storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous waste.

Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures Regulations 2009 (CLP, SI 2009/716): Regulates labelling and safety data sheets for hazardous substances.

HSE EH40/2005 Workplace Exposure Limits: Provides official exposure limits for hazardous substances.

HSE Guidance HSG97: Practical guidance on conducting COSHH risk assessments.

What is an SI?

"SI" stands for Statutory Instrument, a type of UK legislation that sets out detailed rules under an existing Act of Parliament.

Visit our website: Technical Guidance: **COSHH COMPLIANCE** for more information.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations require organisations to manage risks from hazardous substances to protect team members. Within the signage and graphics industry, hazards may come from **inks, adhesives, solvents, dust, and cleaning chemicals**. Identifying these risks are the primary steps in ensuring adherence to best practice and creating a safe workplace. **For more information:** visit the **Health and Safety Executive (HSE)** website on COSHH compliance: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/>