



# MBC Cleaning

## Article 1

A Step-By-Step Guide to Meeting  
COSHH Compliance

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# Article Title: A Step-By-Step Guide to Meeting COSHH Compliance

**Subject Line:** Why Does COSHH Matter?

## TEASER TEXT:

“What is COSHH?” is a common question asked by many, particularly businesses that are keen to remain above board with a stringently clean and regulatory astute workplace.

Here we’ve put together a simple step-by-step guide to easily decipher the regulation that is COSHH and the reasons it’s imperative to abide by it.

Our post will ensure you have everything you need to know in order to stay above board and run your operations safely and efficiently.

So, what is COSHH? COSHH stands for ‘Control of Substances Hazardous to Health’, and it’s a law that requires employers to keep hazardous substances under control.

And, why does COSHH matter? You’re required by law to perform certain duties designed to reduce the potential risk to your employees’ health.

For everything else you need to know about COSHH, check out our latest post, including our step-by-step guide to achieving COSHH compliance...

**Link text:** [A Step-by-Step Guide to Meeting COSHH Compliance](#)

## MAIN ARTICLE TEXT:

### Exposure to Harmful Chemicals in the Workplace

Studies have exposed that each and every year, thousands of workers fall ill as a result of being exposed to harmful chemicals in the workplace. After all, it’s no secret that the use of toxic chemicals and flammable substances carry a wide level of risk, not simply to the user, but to those within the same vicinity, and to the premises in which the chemicals reside.

For example, an employee could touch a chemical liquid in error and burn themselves, or even touch their skin after contact with a toxic substance, resulting in sores or irritation. Worse still, they could ingest a potentially hazardous substance and be poisoned.

COSHH, which stands for 'Control of Substances Hazardous to Health' helps to lessen the level of risk associated with such harmful chemicals, and therefore limits the unnecessary health implications they bring. This may sound like a somewhat obvious regulation to abide by in principle but for employers and employees who contend with hazardous chemicals daily, you might be surprised to learn just how flippantly the matter of chemical-handling is followed by some.

## 6000 New Cases of Work-Related Skin Problems Each Year

The effects of such substances to a person's health result in many thousands of reported incidents each year, from lung conditions such as Asthma to occupational skin disease such as Dermatitis. In fact, according to a [report](#) published by Health and Safety Executive (HSE) regarding work-related skin disease in Great Britain in 2017, there are on average 6000 new cases of self-reported work-related skin problems each year.

## What Is Required to Remain COSHH Compliant?

Employers are required by law to perform certain duties designed to reduce the potential risk to employees' health. These duties are set by COSHH; a collective of helpful guidelines set by the government.

COSHH Regulations 2002 grew from an earlier piece of legislation, introduced in 1988, designed to place more focus on the dangers associated with hazardous substances and the measures employers should take to reduce such risk.

COSHH has played an important part in improving safety standards, raising awareness of the risks and giving employers an incentive to ensure that their workplace is as safe as possible.

## A Step-by-Step Guide to COSHH Compliance

To ensure you comply with COSHH regulations, here's your straightforward step-by-step guide:

- Step 1: Investigate the health hazards within your workplace
- Step 2: Consider how such hazards can be prevented by carrying out a COSHH risk assessment
- Step 3: Ensure you provide control measures to reduce harm to employee health
- Step 4: Ensure your control measures are implemented effectively
- Step 5: Keep all control measures in good condition and working order
- Step 6: Provide the relevant information, instruction and training for users, employees, visitors etc.
- Step 7: Provide monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases
- Step 8: Plan for emergencies

## The Consequences of Poor COSHH...

For those who don't comply with COSHH Regulations, what are the consequences? Well, for businesses that neglect to sufficiently control hazardous substances in the workplace, they run the risk of putting their employees, and others, at risk. From mild skin or eye irritation to chronic lung disease, or worst-case scenario, loss of life, such health complaints could result in lost productivity to a business, not to mention prosecution under the COSHH Regulations. To learn that an online

COSHH training course can cost as little as £15, there's really no excuse for employers, or employees for that matter to remain non-compliant.

## MBC Cleaning Services

At MBC Cleaning, we understand the sheer volume of health and safety regulations there are to consider, particularly with cleaning often involving the frequent use of potentially harmful chemicals. That's why we take the safety of our staff and others very seriously. We ensure COSHH regulations are always adhered to, while our staff undertake regular health and safety training. For more information, why not get in touch?

**Word Count:** 649

### Useful Links:

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

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

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

<https://www.safetyrevolution.co.uk/what-are-the-consequences-of-poor-coshh/>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/causdis/dermatitis/skin.pdf>