



Guidance Note – Chemical checks

August 2022

Due to some recent inadvertent chemical mixes in facilities, we have created this guidance note to clarify the legal responsibility and guidance if you work with chemicals.

Health and Safety Executive

If you are an employer, the law requires you to control the use of chemicals at work. To do this you need to assess the risks in your workplace and implement and maintain effective control measures. The HSE website provides several sources of useful information, to help you to comply with the law and control exposure to chemicals in the workplace.

Chemicals: *If you use or generate chemicals or other hazardous substances at work that could put people's health at risk, causing diseases including asthma, dermatitis or cancer visit the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations \(COSHH\)](#) website.*

Safety Data Sheets: *If you buy-in a chemical product that is classified as 'dangerous to supply', it will come with a Safety Data Sheet (SDS), which will help you to make a risk (COSHH) assessment. A SDS describes the hazards the chemical presents, and will give you information on handling, storage and emergency measures in case of accident. For more information read [safety data sheets](#) on REACH website.*

The HSE also state “The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) Produce detailed guidance on swimming pool water quality and treatment. HSE recognises their guidance as a useful resource for pool operators when drawing up their procedures. Enforcing authorities (HSE and Local Authorities) consider this guidance as the standard to be achieved in effectively managed swimming pools”

Advice

We would recommend that the below actions are re-visited,

- Have all your team completed their COSHH training
 - conducted and documented training on safe handling, dispensing, transporting and disposal of hazardous substances in common use by relevant staff at the site? (This is a legal requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 Regulation 13 Capabilities and Training further details can be found in HSG 179 Managing Safety in Swimming Pools v4 paragraph 242.)
- Have all your team who manage the plant and deliveries been Pool Plant Operator Trained?
 - Have they also received site specific training within their own swimming pool plant room?
- Are containers checked at delivery?
 - are they checked for correct chemical and volume?
 - Is there a site-specific procedure for how to receive chemical deliveries in the PTO (pool technical operating procedures) as per the PWTAG Code of practice?

- Have you an up-to-date risk assessment from the supplier regarding deliveries?
 - The risk assessment should be completed by a competent person. This is a legal requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 Regulation 7 Health and Safety Assistance.
- Have you got a Chemical spillage kit with staff trained to use?
- Is adequate PPE provided (and being worn) as per COSHH assessment and available in appropriate locations?
 - Where required by the assessment, are the delivery driver and site staff wearing the correct PPE?
- Do you have safe [storage of chemicals](#) via enclosure or segregation e.g. chemical bunds, encased chemical dosing lines or, if applicable, a locked non-flammable unit?
This should include acid and alkalines being clearly labelled and stored separately
 - If containers are delivered in similar colours, have you got a process in place to label them to ensure they will not be mixed – eg. putting different colour labels/stickers on at arrival
- Have COSHH assessments been completed for all hazardous substances and retained in clearly marked COSHH file and reviewed?
- Are safety data sheets in place for all hazardous substances and in the COSHH File?
- Does your Risk Assessment/NOP include what to do if there is a chemical leak/mix?

For further information:

- <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/>
- [Safe handling of chlorine from drums and cylinders](#)
- <https://www.pwtag.org/>