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| **CAL-HS-PD-0706** |
| **Skin Exposure Risks At Work** |
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| **Procedure** |
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| Revision History | | | | | |
| This document should be reviewed at least every 12 months to maintain its effectiveness.  Record the details of any changes made as a result of these reviews in the table below: | | | | | |
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# PURPOSE

1. This policy will apply to everyone in the company. Management are responsible for its implementation and the company is responsible for providing the necessary resources.
2. Employers must comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 by assessing risks, providing and maintaining adequate control measures, providing information, instruction and training, and in appropriate cases, providing health surveillance.

# INFORMATION

1. Some substances can pass through the skin and cause diseases in other parts of the body. Other substances can cause local effects, which are limited to the skin itself.

* Corrosive substances can lead to burns
* Irritant substances can lead to irritant contact dermatitis
* Sensitising substances can lead to allergic contact dermatitis
* Substances can cause other diseases, e.g. urticarial, acne, skin cancer

# RECOGNISE A SKIN HAZARD

1. The first step in recognising a skin hazard is to identify substances either used or generated in the workplace. Next, decide which might cause health effects following skin exposure.

# ASSESS THE RISK

1. The ‘risk’ is the likelihood that workers skin will come into contact with hazardous substances that could affect their health. ‘Assessment’ means deciding who might be harmed and how:

* Do you have to use the substance and, if so, how much is used?
* How often is it used, and by how many workers?
* How is the substance handled – can you handle it in a way to avoid skin contact?
* Which parts of the skin are exposed and for how long?

# MANAGE THE RISK TO PREVENT ILL HEALTH

1. Prevention is always better than cure. If you identify a skin contamination problem, you must develop measures to adequately control the risk. This will reduce the likelihood of health effects occurring.

* Avoid or reduce contact with harmful material
* Elimination
* Substitution
* Use engineering controls (e.g. containment, local exhaust ventilation)
* Use a safe working distance (e.g. use long handled tools, tongs, scoops)
* Use procedural controls

# OTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT THE SKIN

1. PPE is a control option when other reasonably practicable methods of control do not give enough protection.

# SKINCARE

1. Attention to skincare will help to protect the skin by reducing the effects of exposure:

* Accidental contamination should be washed away promptly.
* Encourage employees to wash areas of skin that may have been exposed to hazardous substances at breaks and after work.
* Provide clean washing facilities as near as possible to the work area.
* Pre-work creams can be applied before starting work or on returning from a break.
* After-work creams should be used before breaks and at the end of shifts to replace the natural oils that the skin can lose when washed or when comes into contact with detergents.

# EARLY SIGNS OF SKIN DISEASE

1. When employees are exposed to hazardous substances, employers must ensure that, where appropriate, employees are under suitable health surveillance.

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