

SAFE WORK PRACTICE

TITLE	Chemical Safety
GENERAL	If you work with any amount of chemicals, or work in an environment where chemicals are used, handled, stored, transported or disposed of, you must understand the hazards and how to protect yourself.
APPLICATION	As per job description
PROTECTIVE MECHANISMS	Personal Protective Equipment
SELECTION AND USE	Job requirement
SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY	To facilitate and/or provide proper instruction to their workers on protection requirements
WORKER RESPONSIBILITY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learn how to read and use a material safety data sheet. An MSDS must be readily available for all chemicals used in the workplace. 2. You need training to understand the chemical properties and hazards listed. An MSDS will also tell you how to protect yourself and what to do if something goes wrong. 3. Learn how to read a chemical label. You need to learn the terminology and symbols related to chemical hazards. 4. Become aware of chemical safety signage. Signs point out hazards, including stored flammable materials which must be kept away from sources of ignition. 5. Wear and maintain the right protective apparel to prevent contact with chemicals. Choosing and using gear made of the right materials is vital. If a respirator is required, it must be the right kind for the hazard, properly fitted and in good working order. 6. Know what to do in an emergency. You must learn the location of safety showers and emergency eyewash stations in your work area so you can find them quickly, even if you are blinded by a chemical splash. Learn how to use this equipment before an emergency occurs. 7. Find out what the hazards are for the chemicals in your work area.

* The information presented in this publication is intended for general use and may not apply to every circumstance. It is not a definitive guide to government regulations and does not relieve persons using this publication from their responsibilities under applicable legislation