

Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 - Safe Handling of Flammable Liquids

Safe handling of flammable liquids

Do ensure: -

- Less flammable substances are used wherever possible.
- Minimum quantities only to be used, handled & stored in laboratories.
- Risk assessments are carried out to determine the potential for an explosive atmosphere when handling & using flammable liquids (required by DSEAR) as well as their health effects (required by CoSHH).
- Adequate ventilation where flammables are dispensed, used & stored – use fume cupboards where available.
- All obvious ignition sources are removed from storage & handling areas.
- Electrical items not in use are switched off & unplugged.
- Nylon labcoats are not used due to potential static problems.
- All flammable liquids are in suitable lidded containers & stored in clearly marked bins or cupboards away from other processes & storage areas.
- Storage areas with significant solvent vapour present are marked “EX” and all electrical equipment within the storage area is “EX” rated
- Containers are closed, or lid put back on, immediately when not needed & returned to the proper storage bin or cupboard.
- Glass containers of flammables are carried so that they cannot be dropped or break by striking against each other or other items on trolleys – use a suitable carrier and/or plastic sleeves around individual bottles.
- Dispensing from large drums to small containers is done by trained staff.
- In laboratories that liquids are dispensed on benches over spillage trays & that you have a stock of inert absorbent material to mop up spills.
- Spills & leaks are dealt with promptly using inert absorbent materials
- Solvent contaminated clothing is removed & placed in fume cupboard immediately.
- Rags & cloths used for mopping up spills are disposed of in metal containers with well fitting lids, or placed in fume cupboard, & removed from the workplace at the end of the day.
- Dry powder fire extinguishers are present in the lab.
- Everyone knows the emergency procedure in the event of a significant spillage of flammable liquid – extinguish all flames & heat sources, do not switch electrical appliances on or off, get out & stay out & alert Control on 4444.

Don't forget - All University buildings are No Smoking areas