



R.W. CHRISTOPHER CRANE HIRE LIMITED

COSHH Policy Statement



UNCONTROLLED IF PRINTED

COSHH Policy Statement

R.W. Christopher will comply with all the requirements from the Control Of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) and any subsequent amendments. As a long standing company we have always understood and applied the regulations in the manner in which they were originally laid down in 1988/89.

It is our policy to identify every substance we use, obtain all the relevant information on that substance from the manufacturer, or if it is a substance we have produced then we will create our own data, determine the hazardous nature of that product, look at the risks to our employees or others who may be affected by our activities in relation to exposure to the substances, undertake a thorough risk assessment and identify the control measures needed to eliminate the risk or reduce the risk to an acceptable level or to as low as is reasonably practicable. We will review the risk assessments at a frequency of between 1 and 3 years depending on the residual risks and we will always review the assessment where there is a significant change, such as in the way we work with the product or if the risks from using the product is changed.

Information will be obtained from a variety of sources. We will always use the most up to date information from the substance manufacturer in the form of a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet). In the majority of cases the information is easily obtained on the manufacturers web site and can be downloaded to ensure we are using the most up to date copy. Where there is no web site then we will go directly to the manufacturer and obtain the information in hard copy.

Our key operations, in the main, are the operation of mobile cranes. We have identified that there are no substances that we use that causes an exposure to our crane drivers during normal routine operation. The total number of substances (which can be seen in our substance register) is less than 10 and are fluids that are fuels or are used in the engines, transmissions and hydraulic systems of our vehicles. Our risk assessments show that there is no exposure to our crane drivers during normal operations but we are aware of emergency situations where accidental exposure could occur due to a failure of a component in the vehicle. On the other hand we do have a maintenance fitter within the team who will be exposed to the fluids of the vehicles during maintenance tasks.

All of the substances have been risk assessed under COSHH using a recognised format document. All operatives have been informed of the outcome of the risk assessments and have been informed of any risks to their health, the methods of working with the products and the control measures they must adopt when undertaking the tasks that could result in exposure to the substances.

COSHH Policy Statement (cont.)

The information is regularly updated and the employees are informed of any changes to the assessments that could cause them harm, or any changes in the control measures that they must adopt. In general all employees will receive a safety contact on the application of COSHH.

R.W. Christopher are fully aware that COSHH does not just apply to substances that we purchase or create but it applied to all substances that our employees may be exposed to. While we are working on clients premises, which is the majority of the work we do, we may be exposed to substances that they use or create. Most clients will automatically inform us through their permits and authorisation to work procedures. We ensure that we pass the relevant information on the risks and controls to each of our employees.

Where we use contractors or other third party persons then we will always inform them if there is a risk from exposure to substances we use or create. In return we will ensure they have a system in place that informs us of the risks and controls from exposure to substances they use or create in their activities. On all sites we will cooperate and coordinate our activities with all other relevant parties to ensure the safety and health of all workers and others who may be affected.

To ensure that our employees fully understand and apply the control measures when using the substances we will undertake audits of the work activity where specific questions on the substances they used combined with observations on how they operatives work with the substances and how they use the correct control measures.

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Date:

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