

Substance and hazardous

Although we don't use any substances, the venues we hire may do. It is our job to ensure that no substances or hazardous products are in the areas we use or in reach of the children that attend our programmes.

Employers' Duties

Employers have a number of general and specific duties under UK legislation relating to hazardous substances at work. They include the following.

- A general duty under the Health and Safety at Work, etc Act 1974 to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the absence of risks to health from using, handling, storing and transporting substances.
- A duty under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) (as amended) to either prevent employees being exposed to substances hazardous to health or, if prevention is not reasonably practicable, to adequately control exposure.

To comply with their duties under COSHH, employers must:

- ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, the safe use, handling, storing and transporting of substances
- prevent employees being exposed to substances hazardous to health or, if prevention is not reasonably practicable, they must adequately control exposure
- identify the hazardous substances present in the workplace
- assess the risks the hazardous substances pose to people's health
- measure the concentration of hazardous substances in the air breathed in by workers in any instance where:
 - exposure limits might be exceeded
 - failure or deterioration of control measures could lead to serious risks to health
 - control measures may not operate correctly
- prepare plans and procedures in the case of an accident or emergency caused by a work activity
- provide employees with suitable and sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision.

Employees' Duties

Employees must:

- co-operate with their employers to enable their employers to comply with the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#) (COSHH) (as amended)
- make proper use of control measures, including personal protective equipment
- return equipment after use to any storage place and report any defects found in the equipment
- attend medical examinations at the appointed time and give any information about their health as may be reasonable
- report any concerns regarding health and safety associated with exposure to substances at work to their employer.