

CHEM 01: CoSHH and Chemical Safety

Course Overview

This half-day course has been designed to provide a comprehensive guide to ensuring that chemical safety is managed effectively in laboratories and other areas. Group discussions and exercises will be used to support more traditional classroom learning and delegates will be invited to discuss their own use of chemicals and the challenges they face in their areas of responsibility.

We will begin with a brief overview of the legal requirements for carrying out chemical risk assessments and what falls within the scope of the legislation before moving on to a discussion of what exactly is a CoSHH Assessment and how this should be approached. The hazards associated with several different classifications of chemicals will be introduced along with the methods used to determine the risks they pose to users. Having established a suitable level of background knowledge we will then move on to a discussion of how to approach a chemical risk assessment in a logical and methodical manner ensuring that all of the substances used in a process are considered. To assist with this we will cover how to collect hazard information from labelling and interpret Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and other resources.

Using the CoSHH Assessment form provided by the University of Glasgow as a guide you will learn the principles of risk control and discuss how by considering process design, substitution of materials and the use of safety equipment the level of risk can be minimised and staff and students protected from exposure to harmful chemicals. We will introduce techniques for monitoring of hazardous atmospheres and monitoring the health of personnel to ensure that safety precautions remain effective over time. No discussion of chemical safety would be complete without a discussion of emergency procedures and managing accidents and spillages and we will discuss some incidents, accidents and examples of both good and bad practices from across the higher education sector discussing how we can avoid similar accidents wherever possible.

Learning Outcomes

- Legal responsibilities of chemical users under the CoSHH Regulations
- Physical and chemical hazards of common chemicals
- Exposure routes and effects
- Sources of useful information and how to interpret them
- CoSHH risk assessment process
- Understanding and selecting control measures
- Benefits and limitations of PPE
- When health surveillance is required
- Monitoring chemicals in the atmosphere
- Emergency planning

Who Should Attend?

Anyone who works with hazardous chemicals, or has responsibility for safety in areas where chemicals are handled, whether that be the use of common cleaning compounds or specialist chemicals used for research. The course is open to academic staff, support and technical staff and postgraduate students. No prior knowledge will be assumed to ensure that individuals with any background should be able to complete the course successfully.

To book your place, please send an e-mail to safety@glasgow.ac.uk including your name, school / department and staff number. If the upcoming dates aren't suitable you can ask to be put on the waiting list for future courses.