

## What is it?

Dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres regulations can represent a number of areas.

Dangerous substances are any substances used or present at work that could, if not properly controlled, cause harm to people as a result of one of the three outcomes stated above.

These include substances such as paints, solvents, pressurised gases, flammable gases, dust from machining, sanding or processing operations, dust from foodstuffs, etc.

## Why do I need it?

DSEAR requires employers to eliminate or control the risks from dangerous substances, Employers must:

- Find out what dangerous substances are in their workplace and what the fire and explosion risks are
- Put control measures in place to either remove those risks or, where this is not possible, control them;
- Put controls in place to reduce the effects of any incidents involving dangerous substances;
- Prepare plans and procedures to deal with accidents, incidents and emergencies involving dangerous substances;
- Make sure employees are properly informed about and trained to control or deal with the risks from the dangerous substances;
- Identify and classify areas of the workplace where explosive atmospheres may occur and avoid ignition sources (from unprotected equipment, for example) in those areas.
- Ensure that appropriate work clothing is provided for use in places classified as hazardous.
- Employees feel safe at work and recognise that their employer takes health and safety seriously.
- Productivity increases as employees are healthier, happier and more motivated.
- Costs are reduced as employee absence and turnover rates are lower, accidents are fewer and the threat of legal action is lessened.

## **What is the legal requirement?**

- The primary legislation applying to the control of substances that can cause fires and explosions in the workplace is the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR). It aims to ensure that the risks from fire and explosion, associated with dangerous substances in the workplace, are eliminated or reduced. Employers have a legal responsibility to identify the hazards in their workplace and implement controls to reduce the risks that they present: most fires and explosions are preventable if the risks are identified and control measures are used.

## **Who does it apply to?**

DSEAR applies to all workplaces and premises where dangerous substances are present, used or produced. This includes places such as industrial premises, commercial premises, land-based and offshore installations, mines, quarries, construction sites, vehicles and vessels.

The common parts of shared buildings, private roads, paths on industrial estates, road works on public roads and domestic houses are also premises if there are people at work there.

In summary, DSEAR applies whenever:

- There is work being carried out by an employer.
- A dangerous substance is present.

The dangerous substance could be a risk to people's safety as a result of fires, explosions or similar energetic events

## **How does AFCNI deliver this service?**

AFCNI provide qualified DSEAR assessor who has the knowledge and expertise to assist with all your DSEAR requirements. AFCNI will provide with the following information and written DSEAR risk assessment to this standard:

- A clear outline of your business and premises.
- An explanation of the Hazardous Substance at use within your business, there Location, classification and flash points.
- Outline of how these are used in operation/ process and the hazards this may cause with guidance on control measures that can be implemented.
- AFC will also provide knowledge on precautionary measures that be put in place both general and specific to your work environment.
- DSEAR Hazardous Area Classification Principles this is a place where an explosive atmosphere may occur in quantities that require special precautions to protect the health & safety of workers. AFCNI will provide a description of these classification areas, controls in respect to the selection and type of equipment used and measures to prevent forms of ignition from occurring.
- AFCNI will supply with the classification a Zoning chart determining the nature of the hazardous atmosphere 'Zones' with the workplace.