

# Hazardous Chemicals

## Introduction

Most clubs use some hazardous materials. The ones most likely to be found in a rowing club include some cleaning chemicals, some resins and adhesives, some paints and petrol.

## What are hazardous chemicals?

Hazardous chemicals are substances that have an intrinsic property such that they have the potential to cause harm to the health of a person.

If the label or packaging contains one or more of the following symbols, or older orange or yellow versions of these symbols, then assume that the substance is hazardous.

GHS01 Explosive 	GHS02 Flammable 	GHS03 Oxidising 
GHS04 Gas Under Pressure 	GHS05 Corrosive 	GHS06 Acute Toxic 
GHS07 Harmful / Irritant / Skin sensitiser 	GHS08 Carcinogen / Germ cell mutagen / Reproductive toxin 	GHS09 Hazardous to the aquatic environment 

If the packaging has any of the hazard symbols then it is classed as a hazardous substance.

ClubHub provides general guidance to clubs and their members. It is however the responsibility of each club to maintain up-to-date risk assessments and define and monitor its own safety practices, guidance and procedures specific to its environment and activities, which clubs shall ensure are made known to their members and members shall comply with the same.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that the information and guidance in this manual is accurate and reflective of best practice at the time of publication, it is the users' responsibility to ensure that such information and guidance is up to date before acting upon it. British Rowing accepts no responsibility for the content of third party websites accessed through links in this publication.

Hazardous materials can include:-

- chemicals
- products containing chemicals
- fumes
- dusts
- vapours
- mists
- nanotechnology
- gases and asphyxiating gases and
- biological agents (germs).

Some materials may not be harmful but the dust or fume produced from them may be hazardous.

### **Identify the Hazards**

**Clubs are advised to ...**

- produce a list of all the hazardous materials that they have
- read the information on the label or instructions and understand the nature of the hazard,
- identify the ways that each hazardous material is used and the way that it is stored,

The information on the label will advise on the hazards that will have to be managed when the material is used at the club. It will also provide advice on how the material can be used safely.

### **Assess the risks**

**Clubs are advised to ...**

- consider who can be harmed and how, and think about the probability of harm being caused and the severity of that harm.
- use this information to identify opportunities for improvement and then implement those improvements.
- repeat the process until the risk (i.e. that the combination of probability and severity) is low.

## Storage

### Clubs are advised to ensure that...

- incompatible materials are not stored together (e.g. do not store acids with alkalis or flammable materials with oxidisers).
- the storage facilities (e.g. cupboards) are secure, large enough to contain all the hazardous materials of the type being stored and that they are well marked.
- the storage facilities are located in safe areas, away from emergency evacuation routes, electrical distribution boards, gas equipment or piping and heating equipment,
- the quantities being stored are reasonable and not excessive
- all containers are correctly labelled.

## Legal Requirements

The relevant regulation is the [Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002](#) (as amended in 2003);

If the club has five or more employees then documented risk assessments are required by law.

## **Further Information**

For further information see

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/index.htm> and

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indgl36.htm>

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/2677/regulation/7/made>