

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION & CONTROL

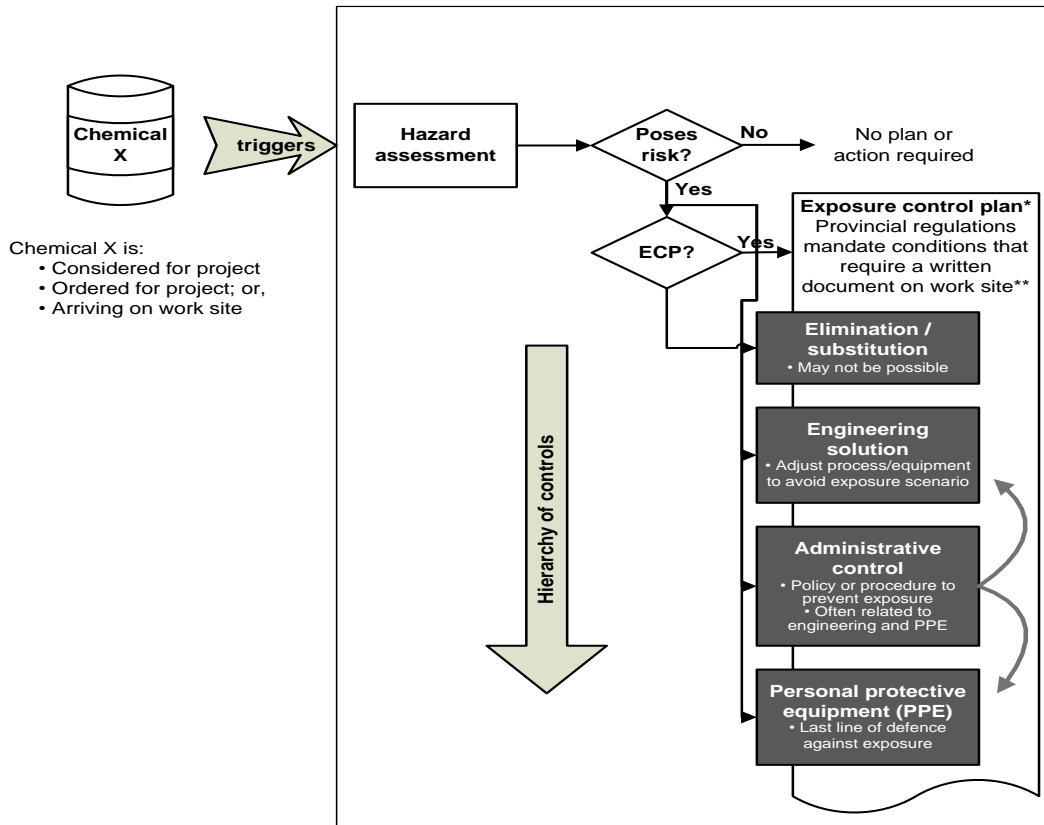
ADVICE FOR IMPLEMENTERS

Working safely with chemicals requires planning the work, identification of the hazards associated with the work and establishing controls to reduce the risks.

As a supervisor, you have the unique ability to liaise between the planners and the workers. You have the authority to receive the chemical information from the planners and the responsibility to pass that information on to the workers.

Supervisors need to be familiar with and ensure implementation of the four-step field-level chemical hazard assessment found in Controlling Chemical Hazards – A Worker’s Guide.

If you are responsible for planning any chemical control work or chemical selection, become familiar with the seven-step planner-level chemical hazard assessment found in Controlling Chemical Hazards – A Planner’s Guide.



*Exposure control plan (ECP) is the technical term used for this document within BC regulations (OHSR 5.54). Other terms used for equivalent documentation include “code of practice” (AB OH&S Code 4-26), “written procedures” (SK OH&S Part 21), and “safe work procedures” (MB WS&H Part 36).

**Provincial regulations vary somewhat on the conditions that demand written, on-site document for preventing and managing exposures. Alberta, for example, has a list of 21 hazardous substances. A written “code of practice” is required for any work site with more than 10 kg of the pure substance or mixtures with more than 10 kg that exceeds 0.1% by weight of the substance in the mixture. In BC an ECP is required whenever there is a risk of workers facing exposures of 50%+ of the occupational exposure limit for a given substance (OEL). See Appendix 1 for complete Legislative Requirements.

Confirm Planned Operations

Before Planners can develop a Chemical Hazards Management Plan they need to know:

- » The steps workers need to take to get the work done and which workers will be doing the work
- » The amounts of chemicals that will be used and the way they will be used
- » The composition of any chemical mixtures and/or the risk phrases from their safety data sheets and
- » If there are any other safety hazards that workers will be exposed to during the work.

You need to confirm that the plan that has been developed reflects what is really happening at the work place. If it the plan does not then go back to the Planners and work with them to modify it.

Identify Chemical Hazards and Workers at Risk of Exposure

There are two main factors which affect whether chemicals in the workplace are likely to harm health:

- » The type of damage the chemical causes and the amount needed to cause that damage; and
- » How much is likely to get into the air and be breathed in or come into contact with the skin or eyes.

This in turn depends upon its dustiness or its ability to produce vapors or gases in air.

Planners use the Controlling Chemical Hazards guideline and web project found at www.enform.ca. The information gathered assists to select one of the four control approaches (bands) which guides the development of the Chemical Hazards Management Plan. The system will select the appropriate control approach based on the chemical'(s) potential to harm health. Specific control guidance sheets can then be printed to provide information on what you need to do to work safely with the chemicals at hand.

Review and Implement Relevant Control Guidance Sheets and Control Measures

It's your job as supervisor to review the information provided on the guidance sheets and act to ensure:

- » the availability of the required guidance sheets and material safety data sheets;
- » all the required safety and personal protective equipment is available on site and is in good working order;
- » workers have been trained in the use of any required safety equipment;
- » workers have been educated in the steps they need to take to work safely;
- » unprotected workers are not in areas where products containing hazardous are used;
- » work is organized to limit the time workers are exposed to chemicals;
- » spill response policies are in place including the availability of appropriate protective equipment and clothing; and
- » workers are educated about the hazards of the chemicals they will be working with and proper chemical management.

Make sure All Hazards are controlled

The Controlling Chemical Hazards guideline and web project only provides guidance on how to work safely with chemicals, other safety hazards should also be considered before you start work:

- » conduct a job safety analysis to look at physical and ergonomic hazards; and
- » implement safe work procedures and other controls to ensure the safety of workers.

SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Validate the Chemical Hazards Management plan at the work site.
- Make sure required safety equipment is available.
- Provide guidance sheets and material safety data sheets to workers,
- Ensure workers are trained on how to work safely.
- Conduct a job safety analysis to look at other hazards.
- Make sure all hazards are controlled.