

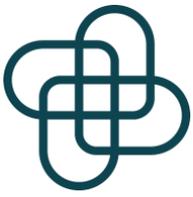
medrescue

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Policy

Version 1
MRGP16

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Summary

The aim of the policy is to set out the arrangements for the identification, assessment and management and control of substances hazardous to health within MRG.

Scope

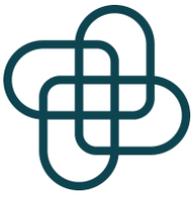
This policy applies to all crew, staff, and senior leadership team members. Including associates, contractors, and consultants.

Document Control

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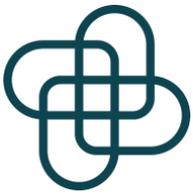
Equality Impact Assessment

Name of Policy being Assessed	COSHH
Purpose of Policy	To minimise the risks associated with substances that are hazardous to the health of all staff
What consultation has been carried out in relation to this policy	Consultation has been with the clinical operations Team, on completion of policy it will be reviewed by Policy Group with a recommendation to put out to end user consultation
Who is affected by this policy	Staff, Visitors, contractors using services and premises of Med Rescue Group.
What arrangements are in place to monitor the effect of this policy	The company will seek feedback from both staff and service end users to identify good practice, or areas where this policy needs to be amended.



Revision History

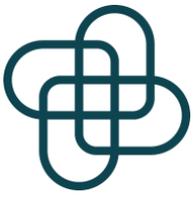
Version Number	Description	Authored	Approved By	Approved Date
0.1	COSHH Policy Draft			
1	COSHH Policy	Health & Safety Policy Writer	Policy Group	29/07/2021



Common Language

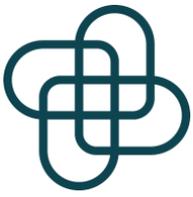
This list below contains frequently used terms throughout the MedRescue Group policy library and helps form a cohesive bond between all documents created by the group. This list is not exhaustive.

Term	Descriptor
Crew	Individuals engaged by the group, whether that be as PAYE, Self-Employed, or operating via a Limited Company, who work on ambulances.
Staff	All individuals who are employed by the group, who operate in a non-clinical role e.g.: resource coordinators, compliance officers, receptionist.
Senior Leadership Team	All staff who are employed by the group and who operate at a Tactical or Strategic level within the group of companies.
MRG	MedRescue Group. This includes all the companies under the umbrella of the group.
Ambulance	Any vehicle owned and operated, or leased, by the group for the purposes of conveying crew to patients, or for conveying patients to hospital.
Base	An asset of the group which operates ambulances for the purpose of conducting MRG business.



Contents

MRGP16	1
Summary	2
Scope.....	2
Document Control	2
Equality Impact Assessment	2
Revision History	3
Common Language	4
Related Policies.....	6
Equality Statement	6
Introduction	6
Objectives	6
Roles and responsibilities	7
External IPC Provider	7



Related Policies

Policy Number	Policy Name
MRGP15	Personal Protective Equipment Policy
MRGP4	Clinical & Operational Incident Reporting Policy

Equality Statement

MRG is committed to promoting positive measures that eliminate all forms of unlawful or unfair discrimination on the grounds of age, marriage and civil partnership, disability, race, gender, religion/belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and pregnancy/maternity or any other basis not justified by law or relevant to the requirements of the post.

MRG is committed to promoting equality and diversity best practice both within the workforce and in any other area where it has influence. MRG will therefore take every possible step to ensure that this procedure is applied fairly to all staff regardless of the afore mentioned protected characteristics.

Where there are barriers to understanding; for example, a staff member has difficulty in reading or writing, or where English is not their first language, additional support will be put in place wherever necessary to ensure that the process to be followed is understood. This is to ensure that the staff member is not disadvantaged at any stage in the procedure.

Introduction

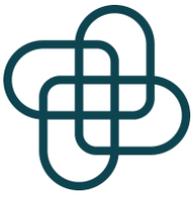
A substance hazardous to health is defined as: A substance (including a preparation) which has been classified as very toxic, toxic, harmful corrosive or irritant for which the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has approved a workplace exposure limit; and this includes biological agents and dusts.

The COSHH Regulations 2002 applies to a wide range of substances, preparations and also mixtures of two or more substances with the potential to cause harm if they are inhaled, ingested or come into contact with the skin and/or are absorbed through the skin or other body membranes. These can include individual chemical substances or preparations such as paints, cleaning materials, pesticides and insecticides.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to ensure that MRG have clear and defined arrangements for the below, ensuring that we are complying with the COSHH regulations 2002:

- The identification of substances hazardous to health and the protection of staff, and others who work for or on behalf of MRG.
- The carrying out of suitable and sufficient risk assessments on preventing staff from being exposed to substances hazardous to health.
- The introduction and maintenance of controls to eliminate, control and minimise risk to staff



- The management, control and review of risks from substances hazardous to health.

Roles and responsibilities

CQC Registered Manager

The CQC Registered Manager is responsible for ensuring that the COSHH management systems are implemented on all premises.

Duty Operations Team

It is the responsibility of the operations team to ensure that:

- All substances, that are hazardous to health, are assessed and managed so that the risks posed by the substances are as low as is reasonably practicable.
- The use of hazardous substances is in accordance with the manufacturers recommendations and follows any guidance given.
- That substances on base are risk assessed with the safety data sheets provided on all products used.
- To ensure that the COSHH folder is kept up to date
- To ensure that all products required are ordered (when low) via MRG's External Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Provider.

All Staff

All staff have the responsibility to:

- To make themselves fully aware of the policy and to abide by it
- To comply with any information, instruction and training provided for them to enable them to carry out their work safely and avoid any exposure to substances hazardous to health
- To take reasonable care for their own health, safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions
- To carry out a dynamic risk assessment when approaching and arriving at scene and whether there is the potential for exposure to substances hazardous to health.
- To utilise any personal protective equipment and other equipment provided to protect them (see Personal Protective Equipment Policy MRGP15) from exposure to substances hazardous to health and ensure their safety.
- To report any incidents of exposure to substances hazardous to health, including near misses (see Clinical & Operational Incident Reporting Policy MRGP4)

External IPC Provider

MRG utilise an external IPC provider who are responsible for the deep cleaning of MRG vehicles and providing the required substances to maintain IPC compliance across all bases.

COSHH Sheets are kept secure at base locations and all substances used are stored correctly in line with legislation. All Chemicals/substances are provided by the IPS external provider, and no others are authorised to be used by staff.