

2.0 COSHH

2.1 Background

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 defines how the use of hazardous substances is to be safely managed to control exposure and prevent ill health. Namely, COSHH requires an assessment of the risks to health that may arise from the use of hazardous substances in their workplace, the establishment of any necessary control measures and, where necessary, the monitoring of exposure and provision of adequate health surveillance.

The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations – require suppliers of dangerous chemicals to supply sufficient information to ensure that hazards are correctly identified.

HSE Guidance Note EH40 – lists occupational exposure limits relating to personal exposure to toxic substances in the air.

Hazardous substances come in the form of Solids, Liquids, Gasses, Vapour, Mists, and Fumes.

2.2 Applicable Legislation

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002

The Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations

2.3 Procedure

Before any work commences, it is the duty of the Client to inform Forest Edge Construction of any hazards likely to cause harm to any employees or subcontractors. In addition, each site will be subject to a general health & safety assessment before any work commences to identify if hazardous substances are present and further control measures required.

If hazardous substances are identified, a COSHH Risk Assessment will be completed, and control measures implemented to ensure that the risk is lowered to as low a level as is reasonably practicable. Control measures will follow the hierarchy of control as follows –

Elimination – eliminate the need to use the substance by changing the process.

Substitution – Substitute the substance for one with less hazardous properties.

Isolation/Containment – remove the substance from contact with people.

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) – use ventilation at the source of the substance to remove any hazardous fumes/dust/vapours.

Administrative controls – change the way the substance is used e.g. limit time or number of people exposed.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – this should only be used as a last resort when all other control measures have been assessed unless otherwise specified.

All staff will be provided with as much information, instruction and training as is necessary for them to carry out their work in a safe manner.