



# HASAWA and COSHH

Health and safety at work is very important. Your work place should have a poster on display explaining the Health and Safety at Work Act (HASAWA) so everyone can see it.

Can you find it in your work place?

**Health and Safety Law**  
*What you need to know*

All workers have a right to work in places where risks to their health and safety are properly controlled. Health and safety is about stopping you getting hurt at work or ill through work. Your employer is responsible for health and safety, but you must help.

**What employers must do for you**

- 1 Decide what could harm you in your job and the precautions to stop it. This is part of risk assessment.
- 2 In a way you can understand, explain how risks will be controlled and tell you who is responsible for this.
- 3 Consult and work with you and your health and safety representatives or appointing someone from below in the workplace.
- 4 Free of charge, give you the health and safety training you need to do your job.
- 5 Free of charge, provide you with any equipment and protective clothing you need, and ensure it is properly looked after.
- 6 Provide toilets, washing facilities and drinking water.
- 7 Provide adequate first aid facilities.
- 8 Report injuries, diseases and dangerous incidents at work to our Incident Contact Centre: **0845 300 9923**
- 9 Have insurance that covers you in case you get hurt at work or ill through work. Display a hard copy or electronic copy of the current insurance certificate where you can easily read it.
- 10 Work with any other employers or contractors sharing the workplace or providing employees (such as agency workers) so that everyone's health and safety is protected.

**What you must do**

- 1 Follow the training you have received when using any work items your employer has given you.
- 2 Take reasonable care of your own and other people's health and safety.
- 3 Co-operate with your employer on health and safety.
- 4 Tell someone (your employer, supervisor, or health and safety representative) if you think the work or inadequate precautions are putting anyone's health and safety at serious risk.

**If there's a problem**

- 1 If you are worried about health and safety in your workplace, talk to your employer, supervisor, or health and safety representative.
- 2 You can also look at our website for general information about health and safety in work.
- 3 If, after talking with your employer, you are still worried, phone our helpline. We can put you in touch with the local enforcing authority for health and safety and the Employment Medical Advisory Service. You don't have to give your name.  
HSE helpline: **0845 345 0055**  
HSE website: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**Fire safety**  
You can get advice on fire safety from the Fire and Rescue Services or your workplace fire officer.

**Employment rights**  
Find out more about your employment rights at: [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

Your health and safety representative: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other health and safety contacts: \_\_\_\_\_

**HSE** Health and Safety Executive

Another danger are hazardous substances. These can cause long-term harm to a person. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) deals with these. You may have seen these symbols on products warning you of danger.

Toxic	Very toxic	Harmful	Irritant
Highly flammable	Extremely flammable	Explosive	Dangerous to the environment
Oxidising	Corrosive		



# Activity 6: True or false?



Read these statements. Which are true and which are false?  
Write the purpose of HASAWA and COSHH in the boxes below.

Statement	True	False
Under HASAWA, employees may have to pay for some items of PPE if they want complete protection at work.		
Substances that are affected by COSHH are only found in a few work places.		
Under HASAWA, employers have to provide full training to all employees.		
HASAWA states suppliers have to make sure the goods they supply are safe and not a risk to health.		
COSHH is only interested in substances that are created by work activities (for example, dust from sanding wood).		
Under HASAWA, employees have to take responsibility for their own safety.		
HASAWA states employers must have an up-to-date risk assessment for their work place.		
Under COSHH all hazardous materials should have a safety data sheet.		
HASAWA means that employees can never be blamed if there is an accident at work.		

**Purpose of HASAWA**

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**Purpose of COSHH**

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