

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety at Work *etc* Act 1974¹ requires a risk assessment to be carried out before hazardous chemicals are used or made, or a hazardous procedure is carried out. Risk assessment is the responsibility of the employer. The task of assessing risk in particular situations may well be delegated by the employer to the Head of Science, who will be expected to operate within the employer's guidelines. Most education employers have adopted various nationally available texts as the basis for their model risk assessments. Those commonly used include the following:

Safeguards in the School Laboratory, 10th edition, ASE², 1996
Topics in Safety, 3rd edition, ASE², 2001
Hazcards, CLEAPSS³, 1998 (or 1995)
Laboratory Handbook, CLEAPSS³, 1997
Safety in Science Education, DfEE, HMSO, 1996
Hazardous Chemicals Manual, SSERC³, 1997 (A CD ROM version is also available, 1998)

If your employer has adopted one or more of these publications, you should follow the guidance given there, subject only to a need to check whether modification is required to deal with any special situation in your class/school. We have outlined safety considerations for the practical activities given on this CD ROM. However, teachers must still verify that what is proposed conforms with any code of practice produced by their employer.

¹The COSHH Regulations and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations.

²ASE publications are available to order from ASE Headquarters, College Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9AA Tel: 01707 283000

³CLEAPSS and SSERC publications are available only to members.
CLEAPSS School Science Service, Brunel University, Uxbridge UB8 3PH
Tel: 01895 251496
SSERC, St. Mary's Building, 23 Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AE
Tel: 0131 558 8180