
Quality, Health, Safety, Environmental & Energy Manual:

Document No: SM-61 Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres

Toyota Material Handling UK Ltd (TMHUK) recognises its duties under the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR) 2002 to provide a safe and healthy working environment by the control of fire and explosion risks arising from the use of dangerous substances.

This policy shall apply to all TMHUK workplace activities including those on its own premises and that of its customer.

Key legislative requirements

DSEAR came into force in December 2002, implementing in the UK, the Explosive Atmospheres Directive (ATEX) and safety requirements of the Chemical Agents Directive (CAD). ATEX requires employers to protect workers from the risks from explosive atmospheres. CAD requires employers to protect workers from certain health and safety risks arising from chemical agents present in the workplace and from work activities involving chemical agents. DSEAR deals with both Directives. In order to ensure compliance, TMHUK are required to:

- Carry out a risk assessment of any work activities involving dangerous substances;
- Provide technical and organisational measures to eliminate or reduce as far as reasonably practicable any identified risks;
- Provide equipment and procedures to deal with accidents and emergencies;
- Provide information and training to team members;
- Classify places where explosive atmospheres may occur into zones, and mark the zones where necessary.

DSEAR applies if;

- Dangerous substances are present (or are liable to be present) at the workplace and;
- Dangerous substances could be a risk to the safety of people as a result of fires, explosions or similar energetic events.

DSEAR is intended to protect not only team members at the workplace, but also any other person whether at work or not who may be put at risk by dangerous substances. This includes team members working for other employers, visitors to the site and members of the public.

The arrangements necessary to fulfil the requirements of DSEAR are set out in TMHUK Risk Assessments, Safe Working Practices and Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) policy.