

MATERIAL HANDLING

Safe Working Practices:

SWP- 14 Safe Use and Storage of Aerosols

Before doing any type of work you must carry out an assessment of the task to be undertaken. This will include the equipment to be worked on, the task itself, Personal Protective Equipment requirements, the work area and environment, plus the tools and equipment required to carry out the job safely. Consult your team leader if you are not satisfied the job can be carried out in a safe manner.

SAFE USE

- 1.0 Read and observe the manufacturers instructions on the container.
- 1.1 All aerosols, full or empty, are pressurised containers and therefore likely to explode if exposed to heat or pressure. A source of ignition is not necessary.
- 1.2 The generally used substitute in the move away from ozone damaging propellants is a mixture of Propane and Butane or other Hydrocarbons. This makes them more dangerous in connection with fire.
- 1.3 Before using an aerosol make sure that you are familiar with any associated risks in use, read the appropriate COSHH data sheet and observe the advice given.
- 1.4 Use only in well ventilated areas, the use of respiratory masks is advised. Be aware that aerosols may contain propellants that are heavier than air and that such propellants can collect in low laying areas such as inspection pits. If a source of ignition is then provided there is risk of explosion.
- 1.5 Do not smoke or vape when using any aerosol and do not use in the presence of an ignition source.

SAFE STORAGE

- 2.0 Refer to the appropriate COSHH data sheet and the manufacturers instructions on the container for specific advice on storage.
- 2.1 Do not leave exposed to strong sunlight or high temperatures. Cover aerosols when stored in vehicles. Keep quantities to a minimum as required
- 2.2 Replace the caps when not in use and store upright, it prevents accidental discharge.
- 2.3 On resident sites, storage should be in a suitable metal cabinet with a flammable sign displayed. Quantities should be managed and kept to as minimum as practical

DISPOSAL

- 3.0 Empty or unwanted aerosols must be disposed of in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- 3.1 If the site visited has provision for the safe disposal of aerosol cans and permission is obtained to use the facility, then this will be the preferred option.
- 3.2 If there is no provision as in 3.1 then aerosols should be returned to the local Leicester Stores using the prescribed returns process as detailed in process SM-31 Waste Generation, Storage and Disposal for subsequent disposal.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS

- 4.0 See Safety & Environmental Manual procedure “Employment of Young Persons” for precise definitions on children and young persons.
- 4.1 “Children” may be allowed to work with aerosols subject to the conditions of this procedure and that of any other appropriate SWP. They must be kept under the constant one to one supervision of a competent person.
- 4.2 “Young Persons” may be allowed to work with aerosols subject to the conditions of this procedure and that of any other appropriate SWP. They must, however, be kept under the supervision of a competent person.