

CLEANING SOLVENTS AND FLAMMABLES

1. Task

Working safely with solvents and flammables.

2. Hazards

Improper use of solvents causing bodily injury, (poisoned by), fire and explosion hazards, asphyxiation, reactivity hazards.

3. Controls

Pre-Job Safety Assessment (PSA). WHMIS 2015 training, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets), correct labeling, CSA/ANSI approved containers, CSA/ANSI approved PPE, adequate ventilation, workplace monitoring, schedule coordination – separation of other workers, proper removal and disposal – site environmental plan.

- ❖ Before working with any solvents or flammables, workers MUST read and understand the up to date MSDS (three (3) years). The MSDS must be on site and readily available to the worker.
- ❖ All containers MUST be adequately labeled before workers are to use the product. If the container is not labeled, the worker is NOT to use the product.
- ❖ If the worker encounters the product, only first aid measures that are stated on the MSDS must be used.
- ❖ All containers being used must be approved storage containers for that product.
- ❖ All Personal Protective Equipment listed on the MSDS must be worn/used before workers may work with the product.
- ❖ NEVER mix products together without reading the MSDS.
- ❖ When working with solvents or flammables, ensure that there is adequate ventilation. This can be achieved by natural or mechanical means, (explosion proof fans), depending on product and concentrations.
- ❖ When working with flammables, workers MUST have the proper fire protection in place, i.e. 4A40BC fire extinguisher at hand.
- ❖ A hot work permit must be filled out and handed in to the proper authorities if working with an open flame around flammable material.
- ❖ Work area must be monitored to establish concentration levels and corrective measures taken if levels exceed allowable limits.
- ❖ Monitoring equipment must be CSA/ANSI approved and operated by a competent person.
- ❖ All cleaning solvents and flammables must be stored in well-ventilated areas.
- ❖ Danger due to signs to be posted in the appropriate locations.
- ❖ Ensure correct measures are taken for proper disposal.
- ❖ When decanting ensure workplace, label is placed on portable container.
- ❖ Where a workplace label is not practical, use a workplace identifier, i.e. tie tag.
- ❖ Decant only the amount of material required for the task.
- ❖ Containers which may leak must be stored in a spill container receptacle outdoors with Danger due to signage and fire extinguisher present.
- ❖ Dispose of hazardous containers on project daily as per municipal, provincial or federal guidelines.
- ❖ When possible substitute a hazardous with an alternate safer material.
- ❖ Ensure proper disposal of contaminated cloths.