1. INTRODUCTION

Dermatitis is an inflammatory skin condition which is neither infectious nor contagious. It is caused by certain irritants contained in many industrial materials.

- Although dermatitis is not itself an infection, it can lead to infection when the skin’s natural barriers break down.
- Be aware of the substances you are using in your work.
- Frequent handwashing and wet work can lead to dermatitis, if correct skin care procedures are not followed.
- Pay attention to signs on the outside of containers.
- All harmful substances should be accompanied by a COSHH assessment.
- If you have not been trained tell your supervisor.

2. CONTACT HAZARDS TO SKIN

- Mineral oils including fuel oils and machine oils, can give you bad skin conditions, oil acne or even cancer.
- Constant skin contact with oily rags in overall pockets can cause serious health hazards.
- Chemicals including alkalis, acids and chromates can penetrate the skin causing ulcers and dermatitis.
- Cement can cause chronic dermatitis.
- Wet cement becomes even more alkaline and more harmful to the skin.
- Solvents and de-greasers, including paraffin and thinners, dissolve natural oils on the surface layers of the skin leaving it open to infection.
- Tar, pitch and bitumen products cause blisters and oil acne.
- They can also cause tar warts, leading to cancer.
- Epoxy-resin hardeners, glass-fibre, some hard woods and fungicides irritate the skin and can lead to dermatitis.
- Extremes of sunshine, temperature and humidity make the skin more susceptible to dermatitis and other skin problems.

3. PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR SKIN

- Avoid skin contact with hazardous substances.
- Avoid constant and prolonged contact with water.
- Use barrier creams.
- Wear the correct personal protective equipment.
- Ensure you are wearing the right kind of gloves for the job, different gloves have different levels of protection.
• Keep your skin clean and use after-wash skin cream.
• Keep your workplace clean.
• Get first aid for cuts and grazes and keep them covered.
• Don’t use abrasives or solvents to clean your skin.
• Don’t let synthetic resins or glue harden on your skin.
• Inspect your skin on a regular basis and bring any areas of concern to your employer.
• Look for changed or newly formed moles or any skin colouration.
• Pay particular attention to growths which appear on the face, especially around the eyes and nose or on the backs of hands.
• When using alcohol hand sanitiser, regular use of moisturising cream is advised, to prevent the skin from drying out.

4. **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF DEMATITIS**

• Dryness
• Itching
• Redness
• Cracking
• Flaking
• Scaling
• Bleeding
• Swelling
• Blistering
## TOOL BOX TALK ATTENDANCE FORM

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By signing this register you are confirming that you attended the toolbox talk and understand the requirements for working safely and using the correct PPE.