

MEMBER INFORMATION SHEET

HEALTH AND SAFETY POSTERS – COLOUR CODING OF HAZARDS

The aim of this system is to enable workers to be made aware of any hazards associated with the performance of their jobs and the various forms of protective equipment and clothing which should be used in order to protect themselves from possible injury or ill health.

DESCRIPTION OF HAZARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM/SAFE HANDLING CODE

1 DESCRIPTION OF CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Each raw material requires to be grouped according to the type of hazard involved and the personal protection equipment/clothing required to be used. This determination will be based on information provided by raw material suppliers but will need to take account of conditions and/or control measures applying within each member's plant/s. For instance, whilst a raw material supplier may recommend the use of maximum protective equipment, such as a dust respirator, if the plant manufacturer determines that the ventilation system controls the airborne dust levels of the material below the relevant hygienic standard, it may not be necessary to wear a respirator.

Six colour coded combinations of personal protection are involved, appropriate to various combinations of hazards.

Each combination has been allocated an identifying colour and symbol and a simple visual information system devised to communicate the equipment/clothing requirements for each combination.

2 DESCRIPTION OF COLOUR/SYMBOL CODING SCHEME

- Brown** - General "non-hazardous" solids and liquids – "dirt" hazard only.
OVERALLS/SAFETY BOOTS/PVC GLOVES/SAFETY GLASSES
- Blue** - Minimum inhalation or skin contact hazard, but potential hazard to eyes or from ingestion.
OVERALLS/SAFETY BOOTS/PVC GLOVES/FULL FACE VISOR
- Violet** - Minimum skin contact hazard, but potential hazard from inhaled dust, eye contact, ingestion.
OVERALLS/SAFETY BOOTS/PVC GLOVES/FULL FACE VISOR/DUST MASK
- Yellow** - Minimum skin contact hazard, but potential hazard from inhaled vapour, eye contact ingestion.
OVERALLS/SAFETY BOOTS/PVC GLOVES/FULL FACE RESPIRATOR WITH CANISTER
- Orange** - No vapour hazard but caustic, acid or skin contact hazard.
OVERALLS/WATER AND SOLVENT-PROOF BOOTS, GLOVES AND LONG APRON/FULL FACE VISOR
- Red** - Maximum hazard from ingestion, skin contact, eye contact, dust inhalation, vapour inhalation.
OVERALLS/WATER- AND SOLVENT-PROOF BOOTS, GLOVES AND LONG APRON/FULL FACE AND HEAD COVER/EXTERNAL AIR SUPPLY RESPIRATOR

NOTE:

Although "Brown" is the least level of hazard and protection, and "Red" is the greatest, the intermediate codes are not levels, but only different combinations of hazard and protection.

3 OPERATION OF SYSTEM

- ❖ A poster displaying the six colours and the six combinations of protection they represent is exhibited in workplaces where materials are handled.
- ❖ "Brown" level protection is established as mandatory at all times where materials are handled.
- ❖ The central raw material register records the colour code for each material coded higher than "Brown".
- ❖ Material records such as stock, order and test records also show all codes above "Brown".
- ❖ Upon receipt each shipment of raw material is stickered with the appropriate colour code, and later all packages are coded with a colour stripe where the code is higher than "Brown".
- ❖ Similarly all outlets from bulk storage are colour coded where the appropriate code is higher than "Brown".
- ❖ Master formula records for manufactured products have each material coded where higher than "Brown", and the product itself is assigned a colour code which is normally the code most commonly occurring amongst its ingredients.
- ❖ Batch cards are coded in accordance with the master formula records.
- ❖ All materials with codes above "Brown" are coded before delivery to the manufacturing area, including part containers.
- ❖ All employees handling materials are required to use the equipment indicated by the colour code, which appears on both the containers and the batch card. Where the general code for the product is higher than "Brown", that higher level of protection is required for all materials including "Brown", unless coded with one of the other colours.
- ❖ A register of approved equipment is provided in each location, and the equipment is made available and kept in operating order at all times.

COLOUR CODING OF HAZARDS

BROWN - GENERAL "SAFE" SOLIDS AND LIQUIDS – "DIRT" HAZARD ONLY



OVERALLS



**SAFETY
BOOTS**



PVC GLOVES



**SAFETY
GLASSES**

BLUE – MINIMUM INHALATION OR SKIN CONTACT HAZARD BUT POTENTIAL HAZARD TO EYES OR FROM INGESTION



OVERALLS



**SAFETY
BOOTS**



PVC GLOVES



**FULL FACE
VISOR**

VIOLET – MINIMUM SKIN CONTACT HAZARD BUT POTENTIAL HAZARD FROM INHALED DUST, EYE CONTACT, INGESTION



OVERALLS



**SAFETY
BOOTS**



**PVC
GLOVES**



**FULL FACE
VISOR**



**DUST
MASK**

YELLOW – MINIMUM SKIN CONTACT HAZARD BUT POTENTIAL HAZARD FROM INHALED VAPOUR, EYE CONTACT, INGESTION



OVERALLS



**SAFETY
BOOTS**



PVC GLOVES



**FULL FACE
RESPIRATOR**

ORANGE – NO VAPOUR HAZARD BUT CAUSTIC, ACID OR SKIN CONTACT HAZARD



**OVERALLS/WATER-
& SOLVENT-PROOF
BOOTS**



**GLOVES AND
LONG APRON**



FULL FACE VISOR

RED – MAXIMUM HAZARD FROM INGESTION, SKIN CONTACT, EYE CONTACT, DUST & VAPOUR INHALATION



**OVERALLS/WATER-
& SOLVENT-PROOF
BOOTS**



**GLOVES AND LONG
APRON**



**FULL FACE & HEAD
COVER/ EXTERNAL
AIR SUPPLY
RESPIRATOR**