

ESSENTIAL  
STANDARDS  
no.18

# Temporary Oils and Chemical Storage

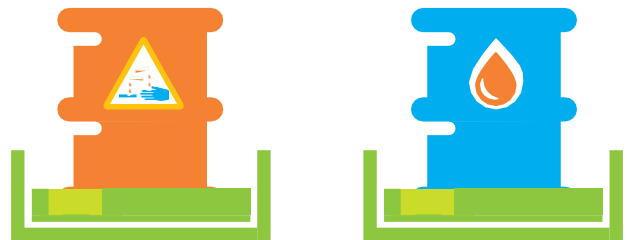


## KEY MESSAGES

- All substances that have the potential for harm are subject to the requirements of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health regulations and a COSHH assessment must be produced.
- Plan for temporary storage to be situated away from the risk of vehicle damage and site drainage.
- Make sure that all temporary oil and chemical storage areas are adequately bunded.
- Regularly inspect the containers for damage and empty rainwater from bunds.
- Make sure that personnel are trained about the hazards of the chemicals and oils in temporary storage.
- Provide appropriate PPE and record its issue.
- Provide any necessary emergency equipment such as spill kits and train people how to use them correctly.
- HOP principles must be effectively applied :
  - **Error is normal** → people do make mistakes.
  - **Blame fixes nothing** → it is the system that drives the error behavior
  - **Context matters** → the environment influences decisions people make
  - **Learning is vital** → near misses are very important. They must be reported and recorded. These tell you where things can go wrong.

## 1. Introduction

This essential standard explains the requirements for temporary storage and handling of oils and other liquid chemicals on site. This standard does not cover the requirements for storage in bottles, small packages or fixed bulk permanent tanks.



## 2. Hazards

There are significant hazards associated with temporary storage of oils and chemicals because of their potential for wide-scale contamination and harm. Chemicals may be toxic, corrosive, harmful, oxidizing, flammable or an environmental pollutant. You must produce a COSHH assessment that refers to the Suppliers Material Safety Data Sheets for information that identifies specific control measures for the substance's storage, handling, use and disposal.



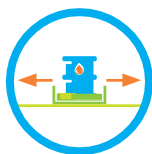
Hazards such as effect of flammable vapors, toxic exposure, loss of containment, incompatibility, environmental release and inventory control must all be considered.

### 3. Planning

When planning temporary storage of oils and liquid chemicals, you should include the following considerations:



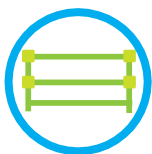
Temporary storage areas must be positioned where risk of spillage to a water course and environmental harm is avoided.



There must be adequate access for delivery vehicles and any handling equipment.



The site layout should make it easy to load and offload containers to and from vehicles.



You might have to install barriers to prevent accidental impact with the container, the bund and other equipment.



Delivery routes must be planned in a way that minimises impact damage to containers, fixed plants and buildings



Delivery points should not be on main carriageways through the site and must be capable of clear demarcation when in use.



The storage location should not be at risk of damage from site traffic and mobile plant.

#### Does the system make correct storage easy and mistakes hard to make?

Make the Right Way the Easy Way

For example:

- Provide pre-approved temporary storage kits (bunds, labels, lids)
- Use standardized containers (color-coded, pre-labelled)
- Create designated temporary storage zones (not ad hoc lay down areas)

If people improvise, it usually means the system didn't provide a robust workable option.

### 4. Labelling

Make sure that all containers are clearly labelled with their contents and any relevant hazard warning labels. Pre printed labels should be used rather than hand written labels to reduce errors.

### 5. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Before you bring any chemicals onto site, ensure a formal assessment of the required PPE has been done. It should cover the PPE required when using the chemicals and for emergency situations. Issue, and record, the required PPE to anyone working with the oils or chemicals.

Ensure all necessary PPE and spill kits for dealing with emergencies are available at the site before chemicals are brought onto site.



Refer to *Essential Standard ES24 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*.



## 8. Instruction and Training

Everyone who works with temporarily stored oils and chemicals must receive instruction and training that covers the following items:



the hazards of the chemicals



locations and use of spill kits



required personal protective equipment (PPE)



first aid arrangements



operating procedures

## 9. Emergency Arrangements

Ensure procedures for dealing with spills have been developed to consider all hazards created by the temporary storage. They must cover what action must be taken and the location of any necessary equipment.

Inform the relevant people in the emergency arrangements about the procedures.

They must also know how to use spill kits and where to dispose of waste protecting themselves, others and the environment.

