

HSC or “hazardous chemical substance” is identified as any toxic, harmful, corrosive, irritant or asphyxiant substance, or a mixture of such substances in the workplace. A Chemical Risk Assessment will help employers to identify and manage the risk from chemical exposure, as per the [Regulations for Hazardous Chemical Substances, 1995, Regulation 5](#).

For more information on Hazardous Chemical Substances go to: www.hse.gov.uk



Illustration shows a device which is worn over at least the mouth and nose to prevent the inhalation of airborne hazardous chemical substances.



Respiratory Protective Equipment must be provided to workers being exposed to chemicals.

Employers Legal Responsibilities are:

- Assess to which HCS an employee may be exposed and what effects this may have on the employee.
- Ensure that all employees are adequately informed and trained on how to manage chemical substances.
- Provide medical surveillance for all workers exposed to chemicals.
- Install a safe working procedure regarding the use, handling, storage and labeling of the Hazardous Chemical Substances in the workplace.
- Train employees on the procedures to follow in the event of spillages, leakages or any other emergency situation.
- Training for employees on the correct use of HCS.

Employee’s Responsibilities are:

- Employees must be aware of the potential risks to their health caused by chemical exposure.
- Employees need to take precautions to protect themselves against the health risks associated with chemical exposure, by wearing protective clothing and respiratory protective equipment.
- Employees must accept training on the necessity of correct use and maintenance of safety equipment.
- Follow safety precautions and procedures while handling HCS.