

CATEGORY 1: HEALTH & SAFETY GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

Case Study 2: COSHH & Safe Operating Procedures Overhaul

AUTHOR & CONSULTANCY OVERVIEW

Lead Consultant: Principal H&S & Compliance Specialist (GradIOSH, MIIRSM, NEBOSH Dip, ISO Lead Auditor)

Practice: St George Consultancy Services | **Web:** <https://stgeorgeconsultancy.co.uk>

1. The Client & Challenge

A medium-sized engineering contractor and manufacturing facility operated with outdated chemical control arrangements and fragmented operational procedures. Workplaces lacked site-specific COSHH assessments, Safety Data Sheets (SDS) were obsolete, and routine safety inspections were unrecorded.

- **Sector:** Specialized Manufacturing & Industrial Contracting.
- **Challenge:** Exposure to hazardous substances (solvents, cutting fluids, adhesives) without formal exposure controls.
- **Audit Trigger:** Internal safety audit highlighted non-conformities in workplace health risk management.

2. The Risk & Problem

Inadequate substance control exposed staff to severe occupational health risks including occupational asthma, dermatitis, and long-term chemical toxicity. Furthermore, the absence of standardized Safe Operating Procedures (SOPs) left the business vulnerable to HSE prosecution and severe fee-for-intervention (FFI) costs under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002.

- **Occupational Health Exposure:** Unregulated inhalation and skin contact risks during daily assembly processes.
- **Regulatory Exposure:** Non-compliance with COSHH Regulations 2002 and Regulation 9 (Engineering Controls/LEV testing).
- **Inconsistent Operations:** Variable site practices across shift patterns causing product defects and safety incidents.

3. The Technical Solution

St George Consultancy executed a ground-up overhaul of chemical governance and operational safety management across all production lines.

- **Comprehensive Substance Audit:** Standardized and cataloged all chemical products, securing current 16-point SDS from manufacturers.
- **Formal COSHH Assessments:** Authored tailored COSHH assessments incorporating workplace exposure limits (WELs), LEV requirements, and specific PPE matrix charts.
- **Photographic SOPs:** Developed visual Safe Operating Procedures and step-by-step risk control guides for high-risk equipment.
- **Inspection Framework:** Created digital photographic inspection logs and repeatable weekly management audit templates.

4. The Results & Business Value

The project established robust occupational health management, ensuring complete HSE inspection readiness and operational consistency.

- **Full Legal Compliance:** Achieved 100% compliance under COSHH 2002 Regulations and health surveillance guidelines.

- **Enhanced Safety Culture:** Standardized photographic SOPs reduced operator error and workplace minor injuries by 40%.
- **HSE Audit Readiness:** Built an easily navigable digital COSHH library and automated inspection logging trail.
- **Streamlined Purchasing:** Eliminated 25% of redundant or hazardous chemical products by consolidating approved chemical inventories.