



Cabinet Office  
Office of Human Resources  
Health, Safety and Welfare

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# **COSHH and Respiratory Sensitisers**

Health, Safety and Welfare

Advisory Service

Shirley Klieve

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# An Introduction to Respiratory Sensitisers

- Respiratory sensitisers can cause damage to the nose, throat and lungs.
- The damage is irreversible.
- Once sensitised, it is probable that you will no longer be able to work with that substance.
- Respiratory sensitisers can cause fatal attacks of asthma.

# Typical Substances of Concern

- Isocyanates
- Flour, grain and hay
- Glutaraldehyde
- Wood dust
- Soldering flux
- Latex
- Laboratory animals
- Epoxy resins

# Symptoms of Sensitisation

- Runny nose or tears/streaming eyes.
- Itchy eyes or nose.
- Wheezing.
- Tightness of the chest.
- Breathlessness.
- Coughing.

Report all symptoms immediately

# You MUST Report

- Development of any of the signs and symptoms – however minor.
- Failure of any person to use the correct control measures for a task involving respiratory sensitisers.
- Any failures of control measures provided to manage or monitor exposure to respiratory sensitisers

# Controlling Exposure

- You must use any control measures provided.
- You must use, store and maintain PPE provided.
- Inform HR Department if you have any concerns regarding exposure to substances.