



Insight & Expertise

A Guide to DSEAR

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What is DSEAR?

The Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations (DSEAR) applies to almost all businesses in the UK.

The regulations set the requirements for the protection of workers from fire and explosion risks arising from dangerous substances and potentially explosive atmospheres in the workplace.

How does it apply to me?

It applies to workplaces where the use, storage or manufacture of flammable and/or explosive liquids, gases and dusts is undertaken. Understanding how the regulations apply and what to do to maintain safe operating conditions and practices needs to be part of your safety and risk management plan.





What is a Dangerous Substance?

Under the DSEAR Regulations, it's any substance that if not stored or used correctly can cause harm to people.

It includes flammable liquids and gases including solvents and paints but also extends to dusts arising from manufacturing processes. A Dangerous substance now includes pressurised gases and any substance that can corrode metalwork.

What should I be doing?

If you're an employer then you will need to carry out a number of steps.

As a start, determine what dangerous substances you have and what risk they present to your staff. If you are unable to remove any of the risks, then you need to provide a means of controlling the risks. This can be achieved by undertaking a Risk Assessment of any work or activities involving dangerous substances.

You also need to provide technical and organisational measures to eliminate or reduce as far as reasonably practicable any risks that have been identified. This will include the provision of equipment and procedures to deal with accidents and emergencies and providing information and training to employees. Finally you will need to classify places where Explosive Atmospheres may occur into zones and mark the zones where necessary.

You will also need to train your staff in DSEAR. This doesn't mean everyone has to be an expert! Awareness of DSEAR is a fairly straightforward exercise and should be aimed at operating, maintenance and project related staff.





Can I do this myself?

Assessment can be carried out by in-house staff as long as the competent person is sufficiently independent of the installation and operation of the work area involved.

You must have sufficient practical and theoretical knowledge from actual experience and/or professional training relevant to the particular workplace and work activity that is to be assessed. You need to ensure that any assessment is carried out by someone who is competent to consider the risks at that workplace and decide on the adequacy of the control and other measures to ensure explosion safety.

Where Covol can help

Many companies often do not know where to start with DSEAR and how to control the associated risks. Not having sufficient information to be able to start DSEAR Compliance is often where most of our clients find themselves.

Along with the numerous previous clients we've worked with, we can support you in DSEAR through the use and adoption of our approach to compliance. Our approach consists of the following steps;

- > Identification of the hazardous properties of the substance
- > Your work activities
- > The likelihood of an explosive atmosphere
- > The likelihood of ignition sources
- > The scale of anticipated effects of fire, explosion & corrosion

To undertake the assessment we visit your premises and will require input from the your members of staff who have knowledge of;

- > The process, operations and environment;
- > The properties of the materials processed;
- > The mechanical engineering aspects of the process equipment and any maintenance requirements;
- > Any electrical engineering and controls aspects of the process equipment and maintenance requirements.

Where Covol can help cont...

Your staff will not be required for the full assessment but should be available to answer any queries during our visit. We start with an overview of plant operations followed by a data gathering site survey. The assessment includes identifying and recording the materials used or stored for the processes and during the site survey, a copy of a site plan is useful for noting the relevant areas and equipment locations.

We then prepare a Risk Assessment table from the data generated during the survey that will go towards your final report. The result of the assessment provides you with a comprehensive written report that includes;

- > A summary report on the assessment findings
- > The identified hazards – categorised in terms of severity and likelihood
- > A list of actions (where applicable) which you will need to complete in order to comply with regulations

If our help in supporting you with DSEAR compliance is something that you would like to know a bit more about then please contact us.

For more information on DSEAR see the following links to HSE website;

DSEAR 2002

[Visit Site →](#)

DSEAR in Detail

[Visit Site →](#)



Ready to engineer change and progress in your business?

Get in touch to speak to our experts

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