



# Symposium on Healthcare Facilities Management

## Occupational Health Requirements for Private Healthcare Facilities

Labour Department, Occupational Health Service

Ms, Edwina PO, Occupational Hygienist

7 April 2018



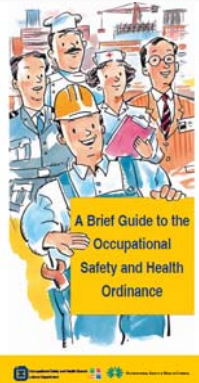
## Content

- Occupational Safety & Health Ordinance
- Occupational Safety & Health Regulation
- Examples: Disinfectants, Cytotoxic agents & Anaesthetic gases





## Occupational Safety & Health Ordinance (Cap.509)



(<http://www.labour.gov.hk>)

- 1 June 1998
- Employer must ensure the safety and health at work of all the employer's employees
- Employees at work must take care of others & co-operate with employer



## Occupational Safety & Health Ordinance (Cap.509)

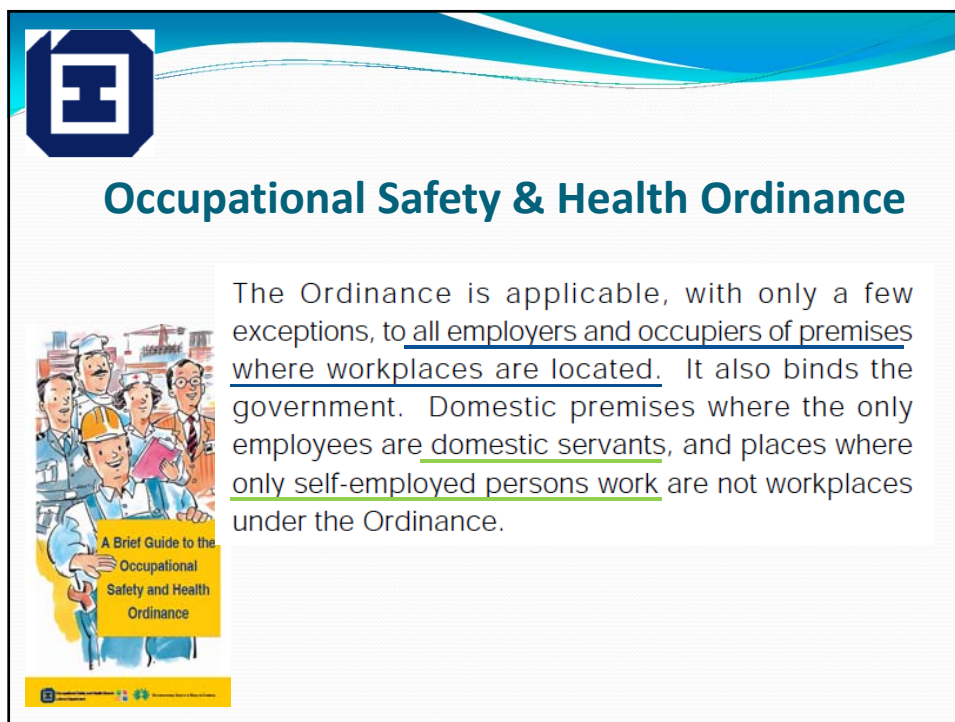


(<http://www.labour.gov.hk>)

### Subsidiary regulations :

- Occupational Safety & Health Regulation
- Occupational Safety & Health (Display Screen Equipment) Regulation









## General Duties of Employers

*- ensure the safety & health at work  
of all his employees*

**“plant”(作業裝置):**  
machinery, equipment, appliances,  
furniture, furnishings and fittings

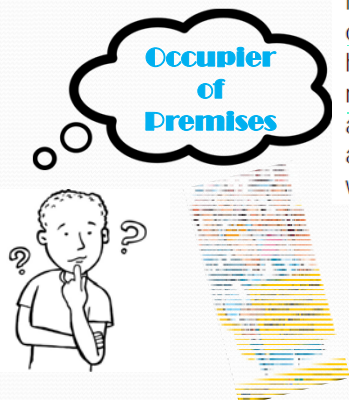
**“substance”(物質):**  
a natural or artificial substance,  
whether in the form of a solid, liquid,  
gas or vapour

- 1 provide and maintain plant and system of work that are safe and without risks to health;
- 2 make arrangements for ensuring safety and absence of risks to health in connection with the use, handling, storage or transport of plant or substances;
- 3 provide information, instruction, training and supervision as may be necessary to ensure the safety and health at work;
- 4 maintain workplace including the means of access to and egress from the workplace in a condition that is safe and without risks to health; and
- 5 provide and maintain workplace and working environment that are safe and without risks to health.



## OSHO - Section 7

*Occupier of premises to ensure safety &  
health of persons employed at those premises*



Occupier of premises means a person who has any degree of control over the premises where a workplace is located. If an employee's workplace is located on premises that are not under the control of his employer, occupier of the premises has the duties to ensure that the premises, the means of access to and egress from the premises and any plant or substances kept at the premises are, so far as reasonably practicable, safe and without risks to health.



## OSHO - Section 7

*Occupier of premises to ensure safety & health of persons employed at those premises*



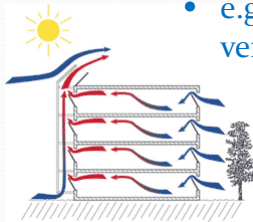
### Responsibility of Employer:

- persons' safety & health at work



### Duties of Occupier of the Premises:

- make overall arrangements for safety & health at the premise
- e.g. fire prevention, means of escape, ventilation, first aid, sanitary facilities, etc.



## OSHO - Section 8

*Employees at work to take care of themselves & to co-operate with employer*



An employee while at work –

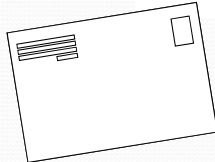
- Must take care for the safety & health of persons (including the employee) who are at the employee's workplace & who may be affected by the employee's acts or omissions at work; and
- As regards any requirement imposed in the interests of safety or health on the employee's employer or another person by this or any other Ordinance, must, co-operate with the employer or other person to enable the requirement to be complied with.



## Improvement Notice and Suspension Notice

The Commissioner for Labour may serve on employer or occupier

- 1 Improvement Notice requiring the rectification of contravention against safety legislation within specified period ; and
- 2 Suspension Notice requiring suspension of an activity or use of premises or of any plant or substance where there is imminent risk of death or serious bodily injury.



Hospitals

Day Procedure Centres

Elderly Homes

Clinics

Nursing Homes







## Risk Assessment

### 1. Look for the hazards

- “**Hazard**” means anything that cause harm, e.g. chemicals
- “**Risk**” is the chance, great or small, that someone will be harmed by the hazard.

**Five steps to risk assessment**

Walk around your workplace

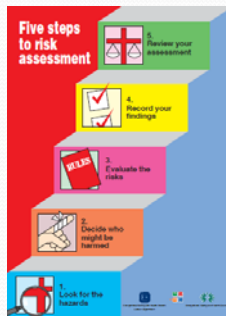
Ask employees or representatives

Manufacturers’ instructions or datasheets

Accidents & ill-health records



# Risk Assessment



Assess risks to the safety & health:

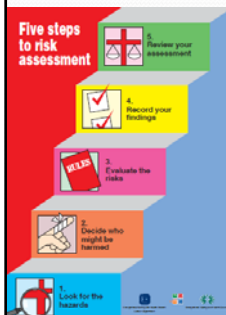
- Yourself?
- Employees?
- People may not be in the workplace all the time, e.g. cleaners, maintenance workers, etc.??



# Risk Assessment



3. Evaluate the Risks arising from the Hazards



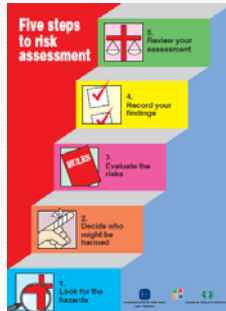
Decide:

- Existing precautions – Adequate?? (e.g. by Law, CoP, Guidance Notes, etc.)
- More should be done??
  - ?? Get rid of the hazard ??
  - ?? How to control the risks so that harm is unlikely ??





## Risk Assessment

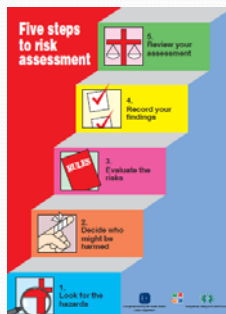


### 4. Record your findings

- Write down significant hazards
- Record important conclusions
- Keep records
- Keep documents for reference  
e.g. manuals, safety & health policy statement, company rules, manufacturers' instructions, safety & health procedures, etc.

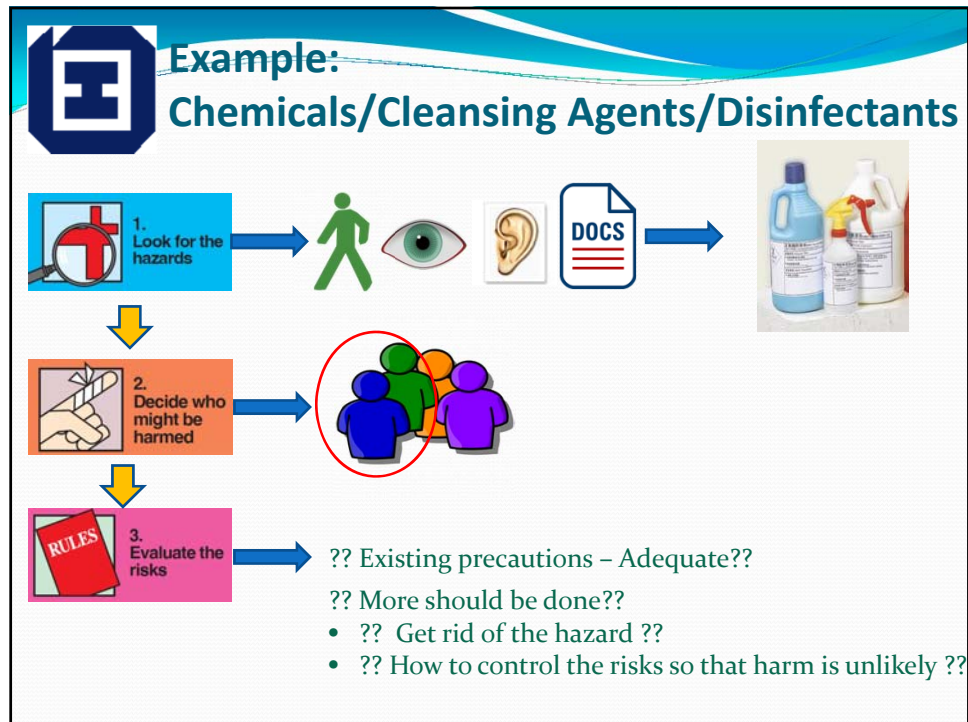


## Risk Assessment



### 5. Review your assessment

- Any significant change ??



**Chemicals/Cleansing Agents/Disinfectants**

**3. Evaluate the risks**

- Avoid using hazardous chemicals whenever possible.
- If impracticable, the least hazardous chemicals should be chosen.
- Ensure **all chemicals containers** have been securely affixed with **suitable labels**.
- Provide adequate training, information, instruction & supervision to employees. Employees understand the safety information & follow necessary precautionary measures.
- Use chemicals in well-ventilated areas only. Use ventilation equipment to remove airborne contaminants at source, if necessary.



## Chemical Label

The left side of the label contains a symbol indicating the hazard classification.



次氯酸钠溶液 (含8%活性氯) Sodium Hypochlorite Solution (containing 8% active chlorine)
危險情況 Particular Risks
• 與酸接觸後即放出毒氣 Contact with acids liberates toxic gas
• 刺激眼睛及皮膚 Irritating to eyes and skin
安全措施 Safety Precautions
• 避免沾及眼睛 Avoid contact with eyes

The right side of the label contains information about the name of substance, particular risks and safety precautions.



Don't mix cleansing chemicals

A typical label of bleaching solution



## Safety Hints for Chemical Handling



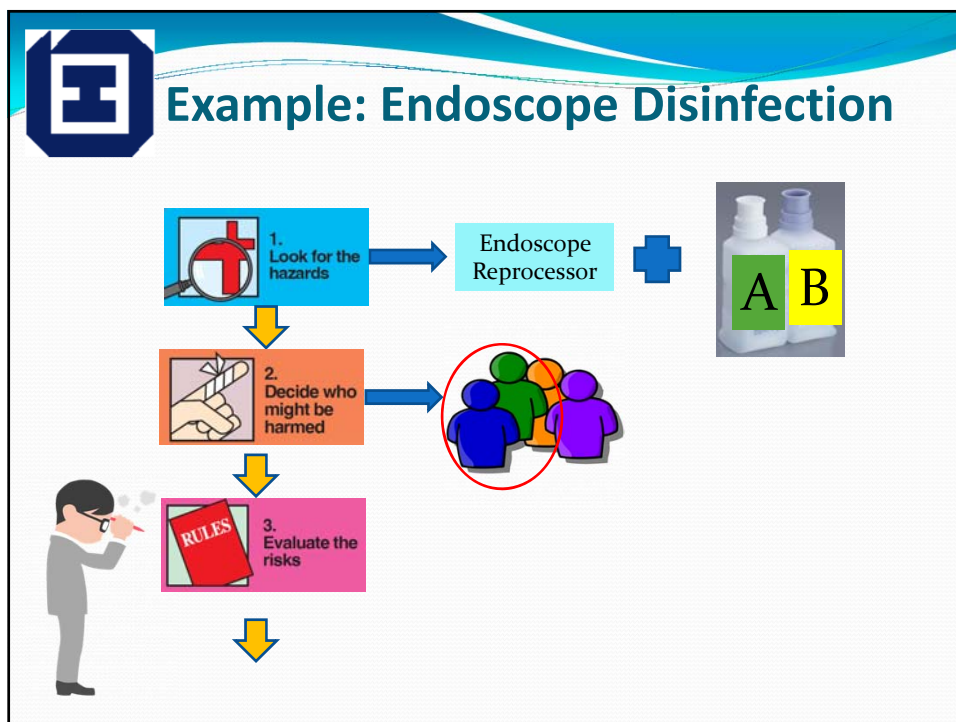
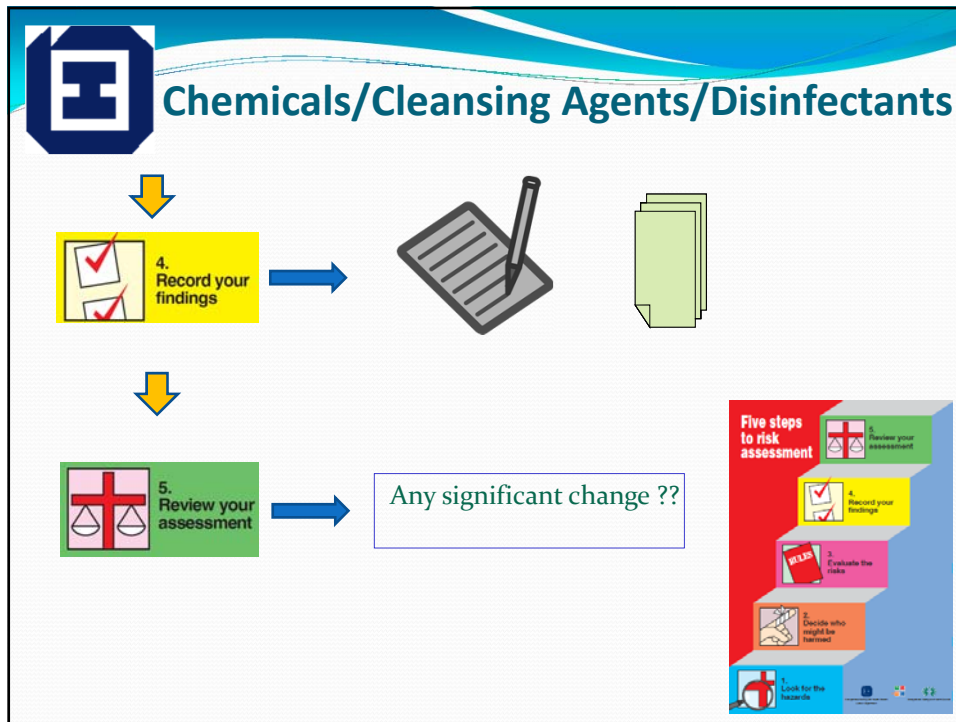
- **Wear suitable personal protective equipment.** For example, gloves, rubber boots and aprons. If there is a risk of spillage or inhalation of chemicals, suitable face shield or eye protector and respirator should be used respectively.

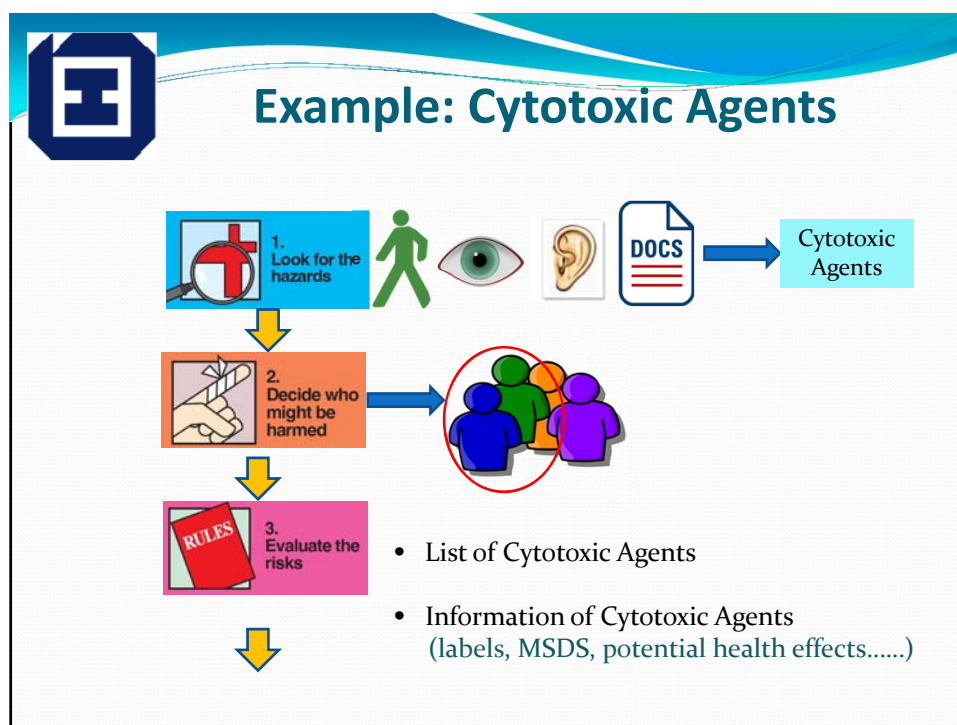
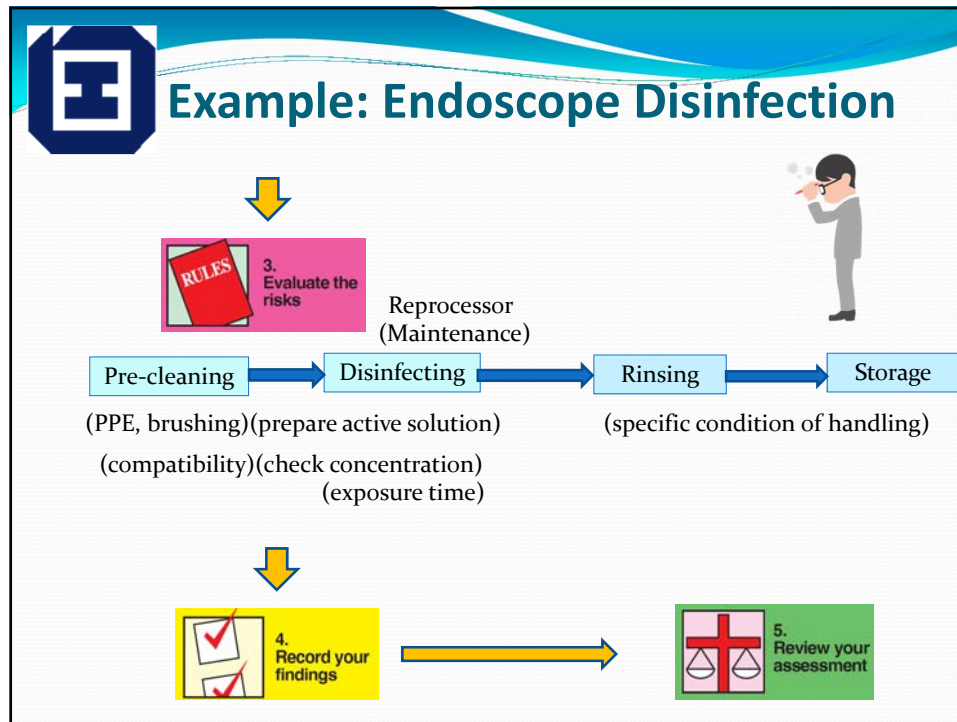
- **Cover all chemical containers securely.** This is important for preventing leakage or spillage due to accidental overturning of the containers.
- **Store incompatible chemicals separately.** For example, bleaching solution and stone washer must not be stored together.

- **Do not eat or smoke in areas where chemicals are used or stored.**
- **Wash hands, arms and face immediately after work or before eating.** This is important for preventing any chemicals residues from entering the body through the skin or swallowing.


- **Seek advice from supervisors if in doubt.**








## Example: Cytotoxic Agents




Or


- ?? Aseptic reconstitution of cytotoxic drugs → .....
- → ?? cytotoxic drug safety cabinet
- → ?? negative pressure isolator  
(maintenance & routine check, gloves/HEPA filter changes, cleaning, alarm system, control access, authorized personnel)



3. Evaluate the risks



4. Record your findings




5. Review your assessment



- Standard Operating Procedures & Personal Protective Equipment
  - (safe techniques in preparing, administering & disposing cytotoxic drugs)
  - (housekeeping, cleaning work surfaces, double gloving, gowns, safety goggles, removing outer gloves & gown by turning them inside out, washing hands with soap & water thereafter.....)
  - (Spill management & decontamination procedures)
- Washing facilities / emergency shower
- Training
  - (Induction, regular basis, updated, evacuation drill, spill management & decontamination procedures)

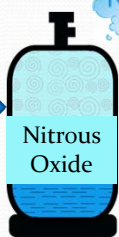
Sources: SafeWork NSW, Cytotoxic Drugs & Related Waste – Risk Management; NIOSH HHE Report No. 2013-0019-3205 & HSE MS37

## Example: Anaesthetic Gases





1. Look for the hazards




2. Decide who might be harmed





3. Evaluate the risks

- Information  
(labels, MSDS, physical & health hazards of anaesthetic gases in use.....)







## Example: Anaesthetic Gases



- Ventilation, Anaesthetic Gas Scavenging System (AGSS)/ Local Exhaust Ventilation
- Interlock system (N<sub>2</sub>O & AGSS)
- Maintenance of equipment
- Standard Operating Procedures
  - Inspect anesthetic delivery systems & all connections before starting anesthetic gas administration
  - Check & ensure flow rate of AGSS beforehand
  - Select appropriate sizes of scavenging mask, Secure scavenging mask over patient's nose/face
  - Flush N<sub>2</sub>O by administering O<sub>2</sub> to patient before disconnecting gas delivery system
  - Emergency procedures
- Training: Induction, Periodic, Updated

Sources: [www.oshc.org.hk/oshc\\_data/files/bulletins/.../19148-health.pdf](http://www.oshc.org.hk/oshc_data/files/bulletins/.../19148-health.pdf); [www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-100/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/94-100/) ; [www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcarehps/nitrous.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcarehps/nitrous.html); [www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/waste\\_anesthetic.html](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/chemicals/waste_anesthetic.html)

CoolClix

