

Model for Management of COSHH in the NHS

Workshop
Health Services
Topic Specialist Group

Aims

To reflect on the current day usefulness of
**‘Guidance for the Initial Assessment in
Hospitals’*** in relation to present practices,
processes, equipment & substances in use
within the NHS

* “The Orange Book”

Objectives

- Guidance for the Initial Assessment in Hospitals (NHS establishments)
- COSHH 1988 to 2004 requirements
- Practical implementation in hospitals
- Role of the Occupational Hygienist
- Have the issues changed?
- Content & format of new guidance
- Applicability to other large industries

Guidance for the Initial Assessment in Hospitals (Orange Book)

- Published in 1989, funded by DOH
- Three sections
 - Initial Assessment Form
 - General Guidance
 - Specific Guidance on different areas of a hospital

COSHH 1988 to 2004 requirements

- Assessment
- Control
- Maintenance
- Monitoring
- Health surveillance
- Information etc

COSHH in NHS

What is really necessary?

Every substance hazardous to health?

Every process / operation / activity?

Operator-based?

Process-based?

Substance-based?

Practical implementation in hospitals

How?

The methodology

The personnel

Reporting, implementation & review

COSHH in NHS

This is a story about four people named ***Everybody***, ***Somebody***, ***Anybody*** and ***Nobody***.

There was an important job to be done and ***Everybody*** was sure that ***Somebody*** would do it. ***Anybody*** could have done it, but ***Nobody*** did it. ***Somebody*** got angry about that, because it was ***Everybody's*** job. ***Everybody*** thought ***Anybody*** could do it, but ***Nobody*** realised that ***Everybody*** wouldn't do it. It ended up that ***Everybody*** blamed ***Somebody*** when ***Nobody*** did what ***Anybody*** could have.

Role of the Occupational Hygienist

Assessments by:

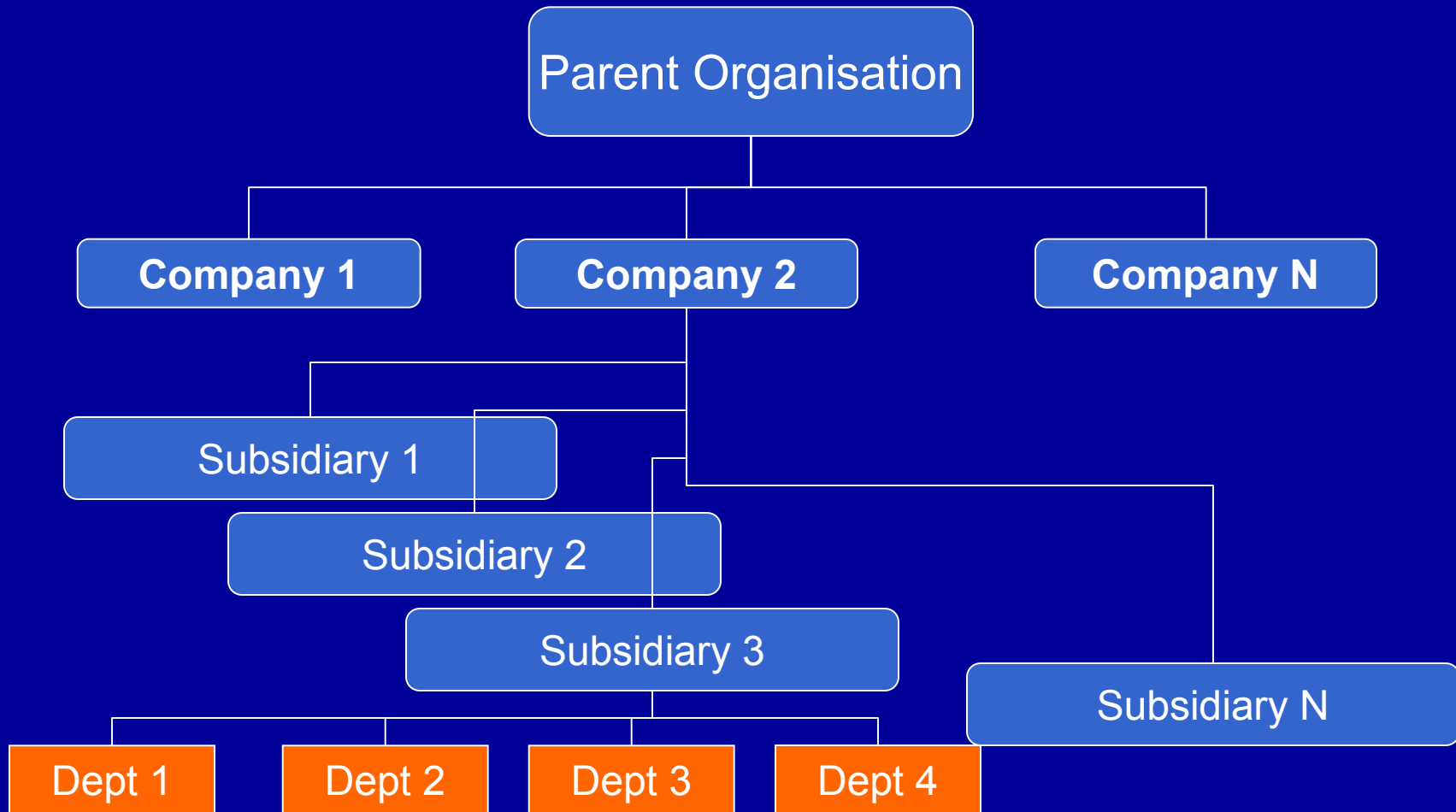
- Trust/Site Health & Safety Officer / Advisor
- Departmental Safety Officer
- Trained assessor / assessment team
- External H & S Specialist
- Other

Where does the Occ Hygienist fit in?

Content & format of new guidance

- Re-write Orange book?
- New format
- Assessment format
- Incorporate management issues
- Review systems
- Dissemination of information
- Overall compliance

COSHH in Large Organisations



COSHH in NHS

How many assessments?

- Trust / Region / Hospital
 - Site / Building
 - Department
 - Room or section

Orange Book – Departments

Problem – not all Trusts/Hospitals divide the same way

Repeated data

Changes (COSHH; NHS; Activities)



COSHH in NHS

Problems:

1. Costs & Time
2. Education
3. Wards
4. Workshops
5. Peripatetic operators
6. Numbers of substances & tasks in some departments (laboratories)
7. Patient (visitor) issues
8. Contracted work
9. Exposure monitoring

COSHH in NHS

Solutions(?):

1. Departmental responsibility
2. Operator involvement
3. General assessments for selected areas
4. Standardised format
5. 'Diary' data collection
6. Information dissemination
7. Review & awareness

Language Issues

Workshop

Health Services

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Language Issues

We have an obligation in the UK H & S legislation to Inform, Instruct and Train.

Communications is paramount in all areas of H&S and we have encountered a major problem in the last 5 years...

Language Issues

In 2004/05 over 1 million immigrants from EU expansion (especially from Eastern Europe) entered the UK workforce.

(Statistics Office)

Just under half of those interviewed had good or perfect English.

(HSE Migrant workers in England and Wales *An assessment of migrant worker health and safety risks 2006*)

Language Issues

Nos.	None	Basic	Average	Good	Perfect	Total
Female	8	23	12	29	6	78
Male	9	36	41	25	11	122
Total	17	59	53	54	17	200

%	None	Basic	Average	Good	Perfect	Total
Female	4	11.5	6	14.5	3	39
Male	4.5	18	20.5	12.5	5.5	61
Total	8.5	29.5	26.5	27	8.5	100

Language Issues

Wieviele von Ihnen sprechen mehr als 1 Sprache?

How many of you speak more than 1 language?

Wieviele von Ihnen sprechen 3 oder mehr
Sprachen?

How many of you speak 3 or more languages?

Wieviele von Ihnen sprechen Polnisches oder
Tschechen?

How many of you speak Polish, or Czech?

Language Issues

Recruitment & interview - via translator

On-site technical instruction - via translator

HSE report on immigrant workers highlights many of the issues.

What are the problems?

Language Issues

Occupational Hygiene –

On-site surveys

Information, Instruction & Training

(Dissemination of results / findings)

Occupational Health –

Pre-employment medicals

Routine health surveillance

Pulmonary function tests

Audiometry

etc

Language Issues

Occ. Hygiene Problems:

Simple questions:

- What are you doing?
- Do you work on this machine all day?
- Do you do any other tasks?
- What shifts do you work?

Typical information:

- I am an Occupational Hygienist. Today we are checking your exposure to
- Do you mind wearing this ... during your shift?
- Let me know if your duties change during the shift.

Language Issues

Occ. Health Problems:

Typical Scenarios:

- Can you fill in this questionnaire?
- Have you ever suffered from ...?
- Do you smoke etc?
- Today we are testing your lungs and would like you to blow into this machine...?
- We are testing your hearing and would like you to put these headphones on...
- I would like you to provide me with a mid-stream, post-shift urine sample.
- **CONFIDENTIALITY!**

Language Issues

Solutions (?):

- Interpreters / Translators
- Translated documents
- Family member/friend assistance
- Diagrams
- Demonstrations, gestures and hand signals
- Others

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