

**The British Occupational Hygiene Society
Faculty of Occupational Hygiene**

PROFICIENCY MODULE SYLLABUS

P801 - INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTROL OF DERMAL EXPOSURE AT WORK

Aim: Provide an introduction to the prevention of damage to health due to the interaction between the skin and the working environment.

This introductory course is aimed at anyone who is concerned with the maintenance of a healthy workforce including occupational hygienists, safety and health practitioners, human resource managers and occupational health personnel.

Learning Outcomes: A basic understanding of the requirements to ensure that skin exposure control measures in place are adequate to prevent or minimise damage to health through work.

This course is a useful introduction to the subject before taking the more detailed 4 day course on Occupational Skin Management M206

Course Length: It is envisaged this course would be run over 1 day and include a short answer examination.

Content:	Topic	Time Allocation
	1 Introduction	
	2 The law and the skin	5%
	3 Skin physiology	10%
	4 Effects of workplace exposure on the skin	20%
	5 Identifying hazards and assessing the risks to skin in the workplace	20%
	6 Managing skin exposure risks	20%
	7 The role of skin care	10%
	8 Skin health surveillance	10%
	9 Developing and maintaining the skin management system	5%

Note: Reference is made in this syllabus to HSE guidance and other documentation. This may not be the most up-to-date relevant publications from HSE/other sources and is intended as guidance for candidates only.

1 Introduction to Course

Ensuring that skin exposure control measures in place are adequate to prevent or minimise damage to health through work.

2 The Law and the Skin [5%]

The Regulations and Guidance that have an implication on the control of skin exposure include:

- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and its subsequent amendments
- COSHH [*Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended)*]
- Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999

- CHIP and GHS, dangerous substances
- REACH
- PPE [*Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002 - supply of PPE*]
- Regulations covering pesticides, biocides, veterinary medicines and cosmetic products. Physical agents (vibration, radiation etc)
- RIDDOR

Outline of the compliance requirements for employers.

3 Skin Physiology [10%]

- Outline of the structure of human skin and the functions of the three major layers.
- Outline of how skin functions as a barrier and protecting the body.

4 Effects of Workplace Exposure on the Skin [20%]

- The effect(s) of chemicals in contact with the skin;- permeation, uptake and direct damage.
- How health can be affected due to the interaction between the skin and the working environment and the consequences (systemic toxic effects, irritant and allergic contact dermatitis, contact urticaria and other skin problems).
- The role of hand contamination in contributing to ingestion exposure via hand-to-mouth contacts. Review of the relative importance of dermal exposure versus inhalation exposure for systemic toxins.

5 Identifying Hazards and Assessing the Risks to Skin in the Workplace [20%]

- Identifying hazards to health due to the interaction between workplace conditions and the skin, including physical and chemical exposures.
- Sources of hazard data and their limitations (*safety data sheets*). The duties of the suppliers to provide accurate information.
- Techniques used for the assessment of the risk of adverse health effects due to skin exposure and their significance. The need for a structured approach to identifying where and to what extent health may be damaged due to worker exposure to workplace conditions.
- A basic understanding of the types of occupations and tasks associated with skin exposure and systemic diseases caused by dermal exposure to chemicals including the materials commonly associated with both local and systemic effects.
- Outline of the use of dermal exposure monitoring, its place in risk management and the associated practical and technical issues.

6 Managing Skin Exposure Risks [20%]

- The hierarchy of controls for skin exposure, examples of process and engineering controls, selection and use of personal protective equipment.
- Outline of appropriate training in the use of control measures including PPE.

7 The Role of Skin Care [10%]

- Outline of the role that skin care, and skin care products, can play in an effective skin management system including the design and equipment of hygiene facilities.

8 Skin Health Surveillance [10%]

- Outline of the requirements for skin health surveillance required under COSHH et al. The techniques available and how and when these may be used.

9 Developing and Maintaining the Skin Management System [5%]

- Outline of the requirements to develop and maintain an effective skin management system, who should be involved and the role of education and training.

Suggested Further Reading:

- Managing Skin Exposures at Work HSG 262 2009 ISBN978 0 7176 6309 5
- Controlling Skin Exposure Sithamparanadarajah R, ISBN 978-1-906674-00-7
- Essentials of Occupational Skin Management, C.Packham, Limited Edition Press, ISBN 1-85988-045-2
- Reference to the HSE web site is also a useful source of information.
www.hse.gov.uk/skin

EXAMINATION/ASSESSMENT

The student will be assessed as follows:

A 45 minute BOHS examination consisting of 20 short answer questions, Points are awarded for correct answers. There is no negative marking for wrong answers. Points are then calculated as a percentage. It is necessary to obtain 50% to pass this written examination.

Successful completion of the above requirements will lead to a:

**PROFICIENCY CERTIFICATE in
INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTROL OF DERMAL EXPOSURE AT WORK**