



**COURTENELL**

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# Your Safety Matters

*This information letter is distributed to those people who are ensuring that their workplace is safe and healthy. This includes members of OHS Committees, OHS Representatives, Safety Officers, Supervisors, Managers and Directors. "Your Safety Matters" was formerly "Committee Member" - a free information letter which has been distributed since 1996.*

## Hazardous Substances Dangerous Goods and Explosives

Most workplaces have hazardous substances. Some use dangerous goods and a few use explosives. Risk assessments should be done on any that are in your workplace.

### What are hazardous substances?

Hazardous substances are substances that can harm your health, and cause long-term illness: Cancer and asthma are examples of long-term illnesses. The health effects are not always obvious - symptoms can take years to develop after repeated exposure. Some examples of hazardous substances are:

- Ø Solvents
- Ø Detergents
- Ø Glues



### What are dangerous goods?

Dangerous goods are substances that can cause fires, explosions or immediate health risks, like poisoning. The effects can be sudden and violent and kill or severely injure workers. Some examples of dangerous goods are:

- Ø Petrol (Liquid)
- Ø Carbon monoxide (gas)
- Ø Matches are a dangerous good (flammable solid)

### What are explosives?

An explosive is a dangerous good that is used to create an explosion or fireworks.

Hazardous substances and dangerous goods are regulated under the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000 and the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001. Explosives and security sensitive dangerous substances are regulated by the Explosives Act 2003 and the Explosives Regulation 2005.

*This publication provides general information about ohs. It is not a legal opinion and does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law to be applied to a particular problem.*

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