

# Hazardous chemical substances

## Duties of employers – basic information



### Occupational Safety begins with every one of us

#### Duties of the employer concerning the handling of hazardous chemical substances and preparations:

(within the meaning of Act No. 356/2003 Coll., as amended)

#### Modified wording pursuant to section 44a of Act No. 258/2000 Coll., as amended by Act No. 392/2005 Coll.

**subsection 2:** whilst handling hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations, everybody is obliged to protect the health of persons and the environment and to follow the warning symbols of danger, standard phrases indicating specific risks and specific instructions for safe handling.

**subsection 8:** persons authorized to carry out business activity may only handle hazardous chemical substances or chemical preparations classified as highly toxic on the condition that such handling of hazardous chemical substances and preparations is organized by a professionally competent person. Individual activities within the process of handling may be performed by an employee who has been demonstrably trained by the said professionally competent person. Such a training course must at least be repeated on an annual basis. Written records on training and repeated training must be kept on file for a minimum of 3 years.

**subsection 9:** upon the handling of hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations classified as highly toxic, toxic, caustic/corrosive or carcinogenic, identified by the R-phrase Nos. 45 or 49, mutagenic, identified by the R-phrase No. 46 and toxic for reproduction, identified by the R-phrase Nos. 60 or 61, the respective persons must be demonstrably acquainted with the hazardous properties of the hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations they handle, the principles of the protection of human health and the environment from the harmful effects thereof, and the principles of First Aid.

**subsection 10:** to issue, for any place of work or shop where hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations classified as highly toxic, toxic, caustic/corrosive or carcinogenic, identified by the R-phrase Nos. 45 or 49, mutagenic, identified by the R-phrase No. 46 and toxic for reproduction, identified by the R-phrase Nos. 60 or 61, are handled, the written rules of occupational safety, health protection and environmental protection for working with the chemical substances and chemical preparations in question. The rules must be made freely accessible to all the employees in the place of work or shop and must comprise, in particular, information on the hazardous properties of the chemical substances and chemical preparations handled, instructions for occupational safety, health protection and environmental protection as well as instructions for First Aid and emergency procedures to be applied in case of an accident. The employer is obliged to negotiate the text of the rules with the competent local authority for public health protection.

**subsection 11:** to store hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations classified as highly toxic contained in rooms that are lockable and secured against burglary and unauthorised access. The storage arrangement must eliminate any confusion, harmful cross-contamination and interaction of the substances and preparations stored. Any leakage or penetration into the environment of the substances and preparations that might pose a threat to human health must be prevented.









**subsection 12:** whilst handling hazardous chemical substances and chemical preparations classified as highly toxic, toxic or caustic/corrosive, to keep records of such chemical substances and preparations. The records must be kept separately for each hazardous chemical substance and chemical preparation and must comprise data on the quantities received and issued and the current inventory of the substance or preparation, as well as the name of the person (name or firm) taking receipt of the issued chemical substance or chemical preparation in question. The records must be kept on file for a minimum period of five years after the inventory of the hazardous chemical substance or chemical preparation in question has dropped to zero.












#### **Additional information:**

Classification of a hazardous chemical substance / chemical preparation is expressed in an abridged form of a letter code of its hazardous character (if it exists) representing its hazardous characteristics together with the respective standard R-phrase or standard R-phrases characterizing the risk. However, in some cases (in case of substances classified as flammable, sensitizing, and in case of some substances classified as hazardous for the environment) only R-phrases are applied.

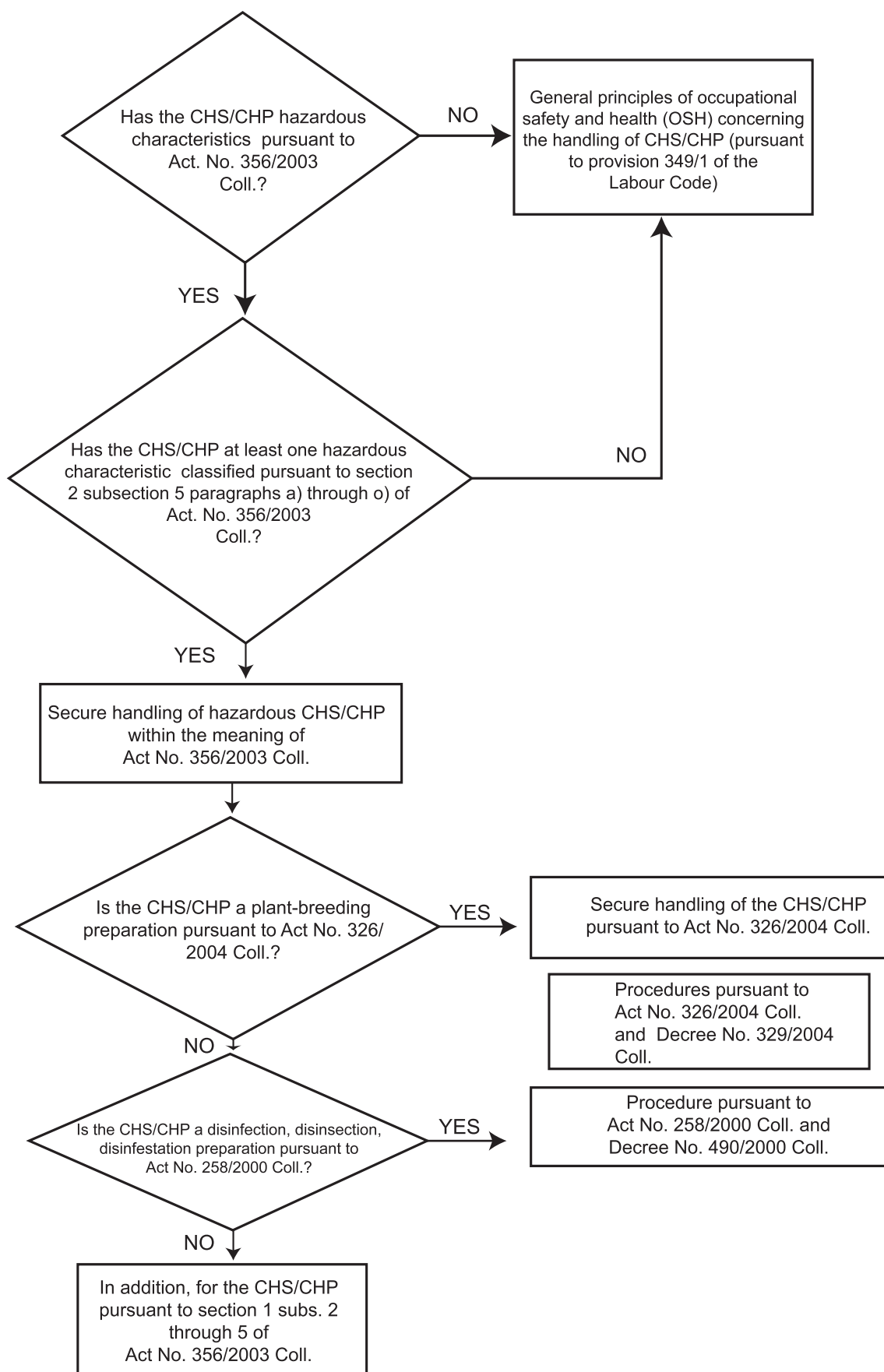
On the package of a hazardous substance / chemical preparation, the following must be indicated: the chemical name of the substance / trade name of the preparation, the identification details of the business entity / person responsible for placing the substance/preparation on the market in the package in question, in case of a preparation, the chemical name(s) of substance(s) present in the preparation, warning symbols (graphic symbol in the form of a pictogram and a verbal designation of its hazardous character), standard phrases indicating the specific risks (R-phrase), standard instructions for safe handling (S-phrases) – in case of a hazardous preparation unless it is possible to place such instructions on the label or the package, they must be attached to the package, in case of a hazardous substance, the EC number, in case of a hazardous preparation, the weight or the volume in case of preparations intended for sale to a customer. The labelling of plant protection preparations and auxiliary plant protection agents must be accompanied by a warning that reads: “Follow the instructions for use in order to eliminate any risk to human health and the environment.”

### The labelling on packages of hazardous chemical substances:

	Classification of hazardous characteristics	Letter code of hazardous characteristics	Warning symbol of hazardous characteristics (pictogram)
Classification based on physical and chemical properties	explosive	E	
	oxidizing	O	
	extremely flammable	F+	
	highly flammable	F	
	flammable	-	
Classification based on toxicological properties	highly toxic	T+	
	toxic	T	
	harmful to human health	Xn	

	caustic	C	
	irritating	Xi	
Classification based on toxicological properties - continued	sensitizing	Xn	
	sensitizing	Xi	
Classification based on specific effects on human health	carcinogenic of category 1 and 2	T	
	carcinogenic of category 3	Xn	
	mutagenic of category 1 and 2	T	
	mutagenic of category 3	Xn	
	toxic for reproduction of category 1 and 2	T	
	toxic for reproduction of category 3	Xn	
Classification based on effects on the environment	hazardous to the environment	N	

Assessment of the handling of chemical substances (CHS) or chemical preparations (CHP) in accordance with Act No. 356/2003 Coll., as amended.



## Information is provided by the:

### Ministry of the Environment

(Vršovická 65, Praha 10, [www.env.cz](http://www.env.cz), tel.: 267 121 111)

- protection of the environment against harmful effects of substances and preparations
- authorized intrastate office for the import and export of hazardous substances and preparations
- releases a list of certified organizations based on compliance with the Principles, a list of hazardous substances and preparations forbidden or restricted in the Czech Republic

### Ministry of Health

(Palackého náměstí 4, Praha 2, [www.mzcr.cz](http://www.mzcr.cz), tel.: 224 971 111)

- protection of public health against harmful effects of substances and preparations
- list of registered substances
- database of MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)

### Czech Environmental Inspectorate

(Na Břehu 267, Praha 9, [www.cizp.cz](http://www.cizp.cz), tel.: 222 860 111)

- protection of the environment – inspection of compliance with respective regulations
- cooperation with, and the provision of professional help to, regional centres for hygiene and customs authorities

### Regional Authority

- inspection of compliance with the provisions of Act No. 356/2003 Coll., as amended
- inspection of substances and preparations intended to be launched on the market or put into circulation

### Regional Centre for Hygiene

- cooperation with other bodies of the state administration in the area of the protection of health against the harmful effects of substances or preparations

### Customs Authority

- keeping records of all consignments containing hazardous substances and preparations classified pursuant to section 2 subsection 5 of Act No. 356/2003 Coll., as amended, admitted at the frontiers,
- inspection of import and export of chemical substances

### Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior

([www.army.cz](http://www.army.cz); [www.mvcr.cz](http://www.mvcr.cz))

- competence concerning the armed forces, security corps and services

### Occupational Safety Research Institute

(Jeruzalémská 9, Praha 1, [www.vubp.cz](http://www.vubp.cz),  
[www.bozpinfo.cz](http://www.bozpinfo.cz), tel.: 221 015 811)

- specialized office for the prevention of serious industrial accidents
- comprehensive counselling services

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