**DSEAR LOCAL RULES**

**AMENDMENT June 2017**

Managers, supervisors and those carrying out risk assessments for dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres should be aware of the following amendment to the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002.

In June 2015 the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations were amended to cover:

1. gases that are under pressure (e.g. gas in a cylinder) which may present a risk of explosion if not correctly handled in the workplace.
2. substances that can corrode metals which could cause structural damage reducing integrity of structures if not suitably contained.

This amendment to the regulations places a formal requirement on employers to assess the risks for substances if classified for these properties and to put in place suitable control and mitigation measures.

It is anticipated that the practical impact, if any, of these changes will be minimal because the intrinsic hazards of the substances being used, or present, in workplaces is unchanged.

Where these dangerous substances are already covered by a risk assessment it is unlikely that further action will be required; where a risk assessment does not exist an assessor should consider these substances as part of a DSEAR assessment.

Assessors are asked to take account of this amendment when *reviewing* DSEAR assessments, going forward.

**Additional Information**

The HSE ACOP L138 for DSEAR already makes reference to the storage and use of compressed gas cylinders (paragraphs 192-199) and highlights the issues which should be considered as part of a risk assessment.

Whilst the University Local Rules for DSEAR do not specifically mention gases under pressure or substances corrosive to metals, the examples of activities to which DSEAR applies should now be extended.

The Guidance document of Compressed Gas Safety provides advice on risk assessments for working with compressed gases. Although no specific reference is made to DSEAR there is sufficient information available to undertake such a risk assessment.

No amendment has been made to the S31 form and aide memoire at this stage as it can currently be applied to compressed gas cylinders and substances corrosive to metals. These will be reviewed along with the Local Rules on DSEAR in 2018.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/dsear-regulations.htm>

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/fireandexplosion/dsear-background.htm>