

RISK CONTROL SOLUTIONS

a) **Elimination**

Eliminating hazardous substances is the most efficient risk control available. Ask what the hazardous substance is used for and whether the process is needed, if not, eliminate the process and the product.

b) **Substitution**

Substituting a *non*-hazardous product is also a very efficient solution, and often the most practical. Employers should always aim to choose a non-hazardous product where one is suitable to the task.

Next best is substituting a *less* hazardous product. A less hazardous product will reduce the exposure to the substance. The aim is to choose a product that will reduce exposure to below standards for safe exposure. Request a copy of the MSDS prior to purchasing the proposed product and compare the information with the currently used hazardous substance. For example substitute a liquid or paste cleaner for an aerosol spray to reduce inhalation of chemical.

c) **Isolation**

Separate the worker from the hazardous substance. Moving workers from a work area before painting it and not returning to the work area until the fumes have dissipated is an example of isolating workers from a hazard. Other examples are barriers to stop dust from hazardous substances being breathed into the lungs.

d) **Engineering**

Provide equipment that reduces exposure to the hazardous substance. For instance use a long handled scrubbing brush to clean an oven, reducing exposure to fumes by avoiding the need to reach head and shoulders into the oven.

e) **Administrative**

Ensuring workers are aware of the safe work procedures for each hazardous substance and of the first aid measures to take in the event of accidental exposure. For example with a oven cleaning it more regularly will reduce fat buildup and the cleaning process will be shorter, reducing the total exposure and thus the risk.

f) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Provide personal protective equipment where no higher-level control is viable, or where additional control measures are needed.

For example when cleaning an oven with a caustic cleaner other workers may be relocated away from the work area while cleaning is in progress, the exhaust fans will be switched on and the worker may use a long handled brush but in addition PPE in this case gloves and goggles will be worn to protect the skin.