



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

#### WELCOME TO THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER – A QUICK EDITORIAL

Well I think we can now officially say that summer is over and autumn is here. The dark mornings make it very difficult to get up although the clocks go back on October 25<sup>th</sup> and an extra hour in bed is always good! This month we have information on the new Kitchenmaster planned hygiene chart, a special feature on CHIP regulations and of course all the usual topics.

**PRODUCT NEWS:** Kitchenmaster has a number of products that we offer to distributors other than just chemicals such as dispenser equipment, charts, labels and stickers etc. The kitchen planned hygiene chart, although informative, had become very dated. A new chart has now been designed and we are just waiting for the charts to arrive from the printers. The new chart should be with us next week and will be available to all our distributors. We have made it more generic so that it can be utilised by both Kitchenmaster and 'own label' distributors. Once we have it in stock I will let everyone know.

**SPECIAL FEATURE:** This month we have a special feature on CHIP. CHIP refers to Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 2009, which came into force on 6 April 2009. These regulations are also known as CHIP 4. If you wish to read more please refer to appendix 1 at the end of the newsletter.

#### EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS:

- Next years ISSA / INTERCLEAN Amsterdam will be taking place on 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April 2010. It is one of the industry's biggest shows and is attended by thousands of visitors.

**SWINE FLU:** The hype surrounding Swine Flu seems to have died down somewhat. Obviously hygiene standards must remain high as we are moving into the winter months and this is when flu viruses are at their utmost. The government advice of 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it', keeping regularly touched surfaces clean and sanitised, as well as your hands, should hopefully help keep Swine Flu under control.

## F.A.Q'S: COSHH

### Q.1 What is COSHH?

**A.1** COSHH stands for Control of Substances Hazardous to Health. Using chemicals or other hazardous substances at work can put people's health at risk. Employers have to protect both employees and others who may be exposed by complying with COSHH.

### Q.2 What hazardous substances are included?

**A.2** Substances used directly in work activities such as adhesives, paints and cleaning agents. Substances generated during work activities for example fumes from soldering and welding. Naturally occurring substances (e.g. grain dust) and biological agents such as bacteria and other micro-organisms.

### Q.3 What is not a substance hazardous to health under COSHH?

**A.3** COSHH applies to virtually all substances hazardous except:

- Asbestos and lead, which have their own regulations
- Substances which are hazardous only because they are; radioactive, at high pressure; at extreme temperatures; or have explosive or flammable properties (other regulations apply to these risks)
- Biological agents that are outside the employer's control, for example catching an infection from a workmate.

If you wish to read more about COSHH please refer to the website [www.hse.gov.uk/coshh](http://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh)

**AND FINALLY...** Alcohol hand gel brought into a prison to help protect against swine flu has been banned after inmates started drinking the stuff and then getting into drunken fights. Prison officers at prison in Dorset became concerned that convicts seemed to be drunk after fist fights broke out. It turned out that instead of using the gel to sanitise their hands, inmates were consuming it. It is thought one prisoner became aggressive after downing the gel and started brawling with another inmate. The prison governor has now removed all of the dispensers from the prison. The gel was originally put out because of the swine flu threat but it was subsequently reported that the inmates had been incorrectly using them, for want of a better phrase.

## APPENDIX 1

### CHIP REGULATIONS

The series of Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations is known for short as CHIP. Their aim is to help protect people and the environment from the ill effects of chemicals by providing information about their properties and ensuring they are packaged safely. CHIP requires suppliers to:

- Identify the hazards (dangers) of the chemicals they supply – this is called classification
- Give information about the hazards to the people they supply chemicals to
- Package chemicals safely

The fundamental requirement of CHIP is that you decide whether chemicals are hazardous. If so you have to decide what kinds of hazard (category of danger) the chemical has and describe the hazard by allocating a risk phase.

In general classification has to be done for all chemicals and by chemicals we mean substances and preparations. There are a few exceptions such as medicines and cosmetics.

Safety data sheets (SDS) are no longer covered by the CHIP regulations. The laws that require a SDS to be provided have been transferred to the European REACH Regulation. To read more about safety data sheets, the importance of these and what information are contained in them please refer to the website [www.kitchenmaster-ni.com](http://www.kitchenmaster-ni.com) and look under the section entitled 'Regulatory Compliance'. REACH information is also provided here.

If a dangerous chemical is supplied in a package the package must be labelled. The aim of the label is to tell anyone handling the package or using the chemicals about the hazards and to give brief advice on suitable precautions. For workers the label is a supplement to information provided by the employer and for many it is a major way of getting the information across.

The majority of Kitchenmaster customers do not have a great deal to do. As you do not do anything to the chemicals – you do not mix or react or process or reformulate them then you just have to make sure that you have the safety data sheets and the products are classified and labelled accordingly.