# Storage of Hazardous Materials

IAMC Toolkit

Innovative Approaches for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Chemical Waste







The presence of hazardous substances in a company involves special rules for handling, processing, disposal and storage of such substances. This presentation explains the rules to be applied when establishing storage systems.

The reader will learn about the use of the systems providing illustrations of technical solutions, general storage rules and specific rules for each storage category (including incompatibilities).

# Hazard Management

1. Risk Identification and safety	2. Transport and storage	3. Fire and explosion protection	4. Emergency response
1.1 Chemical classification and labelling	2.1 Internal transport of chemicals	3.1 Fire protection	4.1 Emergency response plan
1.2 Risk assessment	2.2 Internal pedestrian routes	3.2 Fire protection in welding and cutting operations	
1.3 Safety rules	2.3 Storage	3.3 Explosion protection	
1.4 Personal protective equipment		3.4 Container cleaning	
1.5 Skin protection			
1.6 Emergency escape routes			
1.7 Solvents, acids, bases handling			
1.8 Safety in gas tank handling			

# Contents

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Storage Concept
- 3. Technical Solutions
  - General storage rules
  - Specific rules for each storage category
  - Specific storage incompatibilities
- 4. Examples

## Introduction – Storage Locations



# Introduction

POTENTIAL DANGER	CONSEQUENCES
Fire/Explosion	Toxic vapours and gases Secondary reactions Water and soil pollution, due to contaminated fire-fighting water
Flooding	Environmental contamination due to polluted water
Leakages	Dispersion of toxic substances, harmful to the environment

# Introduction

POTENTIAL DANGER	CONSEQUENCES
Acids + non precious metals	Spontaneous combustion (gaseous hydrogen)
Oxidants + organic materials (wood, paper, etc.)	Fire, explosion
Acids + bases	Exothermic reaction (heat emission + corrosive projections)
Nitric acid + organic substances or metals	Toxic nitrous gas
Chlorine bleach + acids	Toxic gaseous chlorine

### The rules that guarantee the appropriate storage of hazardous materials are summarized in the storage concept, drawn up by the safety officer of a factory.

These rules are the same for large and small companies. Their application needs to be adapted to each situation, in a case-by-case approach.

### **General objectives**

- 1. **Matching** local conditions and measures to the hazards of stored products
- 2. Identification of conflicts and adjustment of storage
- 3. Compliance with legal requirements

### **Contents of the storage concept**

Description of the local environment	Hazardous substances	Measures
<ul> <li>Storage conditions</li> <li>Physical properties of storage room(s)</li> <li>Definitions of the stored substances</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Quantities</li> <li>Nature, hazards</li> <li>Identification on a map (storage and handling)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Structural</li> <li>Technical</li> <li>Organizational</li> </ul>

#### **Table of contents (example)**

- Hazardous substances: overview of the dangers
- Identification of the storage place(s): map
- Receipt and storage
  - Storage rules
  - Illustrations
- Safety data sheets (SDSs)
- Inventory of hazardous substances
- Accidents
  - Spillage
  - Inhalation or contact with the skin or eyes
- Waste storage and disposal
- Organization: responsibilities and tasks
  - Training

### **Organization: Tasks and responsibilities**



Source : CSD / ISSPPRO

# **Technical Solutions**

# General Storage Rules: Containers

### **Original containers**

- Hazardous substances must always be stored in their original containers.
- If they have to be poured into another container, the new receptacle must have the same mechanical, chemical and physical properties and must be properly labelled.

- Hazardous materials must be clearly identified.
- Inventory and safety data sheets (SDSs)
- The following data must be accessible:
- A register listing the maximum quantities for each category of hazardous material and the currently stored quantities
- 2. The storage position(s) on a map
- 3. A file containing the SDSs for every substance stored

### Inventory and safety data sheets (SDSs)





Source: CSD

Source: CSD

### Identification of storage places (main and secondary)



# The containers must be labelled and the places where hazardous substances are stored must be marked.

Minimum information required on the labels:



Source: United Nations, Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

### Label example

	Methanol (solvent) (N° CE: 603-001-00-X)	
	Highly flammable liquid and vapour	H225
	Toxic if swallowed Toxic in contact with skin Toxic if inhaled Causes damage to organs (especially to eyes)	H301 H311 H331 H370
	Keep away from heat, hot surfaces, sparks, open flames and other ignition sources. No smoking. Store in a well-ventilated place. Keep container tightly closed.	P210 P403/233
	If on skin: wash with water and soap. If swallowed: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting. Immediately call a poison centre or a doctor. Store locked up.	P280 P302/352 P301/310 P405
2	Chemistry Example Sàrl200 litres5St. Example 10, 1111 Town5Telephone 032 600 60 60	

### General Storage Rules: Excluding Storage Incompatibilities

### What are storage incompatibilities?

- Certain chemical substances when mixed together can trigger violent and potentially hazardous reactions. Such substances are incompatible and must not be stored together.
- The compatibility matrices on the following slides show a classification of substances that, according to their hazardous properties, must not be stored together (red), can be stored together under certain conditions that have to be verified in the SDS (orange) or can usually be stored together without disadvantages (green).

### General Storage Rules: Excluding Storage Incompatibilities

### **General incompatibilities**



#### Legend:



Can be stored together

Cannot be stored together



Can be stored together under certain conditions (check the SDSs)

Objective: Avoid hazardous reactions

		Formic acid	Solution of ammonia	Solution of iron chloride (III)	Solution of iron chloride (III) sulfate	Acetic acid	Hydrofluoric acid	Solution of potas- sium hydroxide	Solution of sodium hydroxide	Solution of sodium hydrogensulfite	Solution of sodium hypochlorite	Peracetic acid	Phosphoric acid	Nitric acid	Hydrochloric acid	Sulphuric acid	Hydrogen peroxide
	Storage category	8	8	8	8	3	6.1	8	8	10/12	5	5	8	5	8	8	5
Formic acid	8																
Solution of ammonia	8																
Solution of iron chloride (III)	8																
Solution of iron chloride (III) sulfate	8																
Acetic acid	3																
Hydrofluoric acid	6.1																
Solution of potassium hydroxide	8																
Solution of sodium hydroxide	8																
Solution of sodium hydrogensulfite	10/12																
Solution of sodium hypochlorite	5																
Peracetic acid	5																
Phosphoric acid	8																
Nitric acid	5																
Hydrochloric acid	8																
Sulphuric acid	8																
Hydrogen peroxide	5																

Source: Based on Sicherheitsinstitut

General Storage Rules: Leakages Must Be Confined

Overflows, leakages, accidental spillage, etc. may occur.

# Hazardous liquid substances must be stored on a catch basin.

### **Objectives**:

- Prevent human exposure and environmental contamination
- Prevent the mixing of substances and hazardous reactions

### General Storage Rules: Leakages Must Be Confined

### **Catch basins: Examples**

From the smallest quantities to the largest



Source: CSD



Source: UNIDO



Post-storage

Container storage

Bulk storage

### General Storage Rules: Leakages Must Be Confined

### **Catch basins: Design**

- The retention capacity must provide for at least 100% of the highest volume stored.
- The material must be adapted to the substances stored (e.g. concrete is not suitable for solvent retention).

# **General Storage Rules**

### **Other general rules**

- 1. The **flooring of the storage area must be impermeable**. A special coating (sealing) will often be necessary, as concrete is permeable to many substances. This coating must be incombustible. Structural
- 2. The separation of the storage areas (or compartments) according to the **storage categories must be clearly identified** and labelled (flammable, toxic, corrosive, etc.). Good practice
- 3. Other non-hazardous materials should not be stored in the same place (wrapping, paper, cardboard, spare parts, etc.). Good practice
- 4. The containers must be **protected from any mechanical or thermal influence** (heat sources, object falls, pressure through weight, etc.). Good practice

# **General Storage Rules**

- 5. There must be **one responsible person** (and one substitute) appointed for the storage area(s). Organizational
- 6. Appropriate **personal protective equipment** (PPE) must be easily available and properly maintained. Organizational
- 7. At least one **eye shower** must be installed. An emergency shower can be necessary. Organizational
- 8. Store minimum quantities. Good practice
- 9. Control stock, i.e. first-in/first-out, move redundant stock. Good practice
- 10. Segregate "empties" (cylinders, sacks, drums, bottles). Good practice
- 11. Ensure adequate access for both normal and emergency purposes with alternative routes. Structural/Good practice

# **General Storage Rules**

- 12. Monitor stock, (temperature, pressure, degradation of substances, deterioration of packaging or containers/corrosion, leakages, condition of labels, expiry date, etc.) Good practice
- 13. Decontamination and first-aid provisions (neutralize/destroy, fire-fighting). Technical
- 14. Appropriate gas/vapour/fume/pressure venting must be available (e.g. flame arrestors, scrubbers, absorbers, stacks). Technical
- 15. Provide adequate, safe lighting. Technical
- 16. Limit stack heights. Generally chemicals should be stored off the ground (e.g. to facilitate cleaning, to keep above any ingress of water in the event of flooding).

Source: Hazardous Chemicals Handbook

# Cite the four main storage rules and give examples of measures.

### Four main storage rules









### Four main storage rules

#### 1. Original container

- Hazardous substances must always be stored in their original containers.
- If they have to be poured into another container, the new receptacle must have the same mechanical, chemical and physical properties and must be properly labelled.

#### 2. Hazardous material must be clearly identified

- The following information should be available:
  - A register including the maximum quantities for each category of hazardous material and the currently stored quantities
  - The storage position(s) on a map
  - A file containing the SDSs for every substance stored





Source: United Nations

### Four main storage rules

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Source: United Nations

## Four main storage rules

#### 3. Exclude storage incompatibilities

- Hazardous substances must be stored separately from any other non-hazardous material, and especially from food or drugs.
- Acids and bases must not be stored together.

#### 4. Leakages must be confined

Hazardous liquids must be stored on a catch basin in order to manage overflow, leakage or accidental spillage. The objective of containing the liquid and avoiding its dispersion is to prevent:

- Environmental contamination and human exposure
- One of the hazardous reactions previously mentioned



Source: Based on Neosys



Source: United Nations

# Specific Storage Rules – Categories

Storage class	Substances property	ADR/UN labeling	GHS labelling
SC 2	Liquefied or under pressure gas		
SC 3	Flammable liquid		
SC 4.1	Flammable solid		
SC 4.2	Auto flammable		
SC 4.3	Contact with water produces flammable gas emissions		
SC 5	Oxidizing substances / organic peroxides	<b>D</b> 51 52	
SC 6.1	Toxic	6	
SC 8	Corrosive or caustic	8	
SC 9	Other hazardous substances, incl. environmentally hazardous		

Source: United Nations

# Specific Storage Rules – Categories

N°	Storage category
2	Gases: compressed liquefied or dissolved under pressure
3	Flammable liquids
4.1	Flammable solids
4.2	Pyrophoric substances
4.3	Water reactive substances (substances which in contact with water emit flammable gases)
5	Oxidizing substances and organic peroxides
6	Toxic substances
8	Corrosive and caustic substances
# Storage Category 2: Liquefied gases or gases under pressure

#### **SPECIFIC DANGERS**

- Gas leakage

- In case of accidental destruction or fire, the pressurized container can turn into a dangerous projectile.



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Source: Suva
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- Gas bottles must be protected by a fence.
- Use natural or forced ventilation:
  - Extraction near the ceiling if the gas is lighter than the air
  - Extraction near the floor if the gas is denser than the air
  - Air renewal 3 to 5 times per hour
  - Ammoniac and gaseous chlorine require specific storage conditions, designed by a specialist (service provider).

### **Storage Category 3: Flammable liquids**

- Flammability of the substance
- Potentially explosive vapours
- Keep away from ignition sources.
- Electrical devices in storage rooms must be grounded and used so as to avoid ignition.
- Empty containers must be carefully cleaned as explosive air/gas mixes might develop.
- Smoking is forbidden and appropriate prohibitive signs are displayed.
- Containers must always be closed to avoid evaporation.



Danger classes	Description	Examples
F1	Liquids with a <b>maximum flash</b> point of 21°C	Gasoline, acetone, cellulose thinner
F2	Liquids with a <b>flashpoint higher</b> than 21°C and lower than 55°C	Petroleum, mineral oil
F3	Liquids with a <b>flashpoint higher</b> than 55°C and lower than 100°C	Extra-light heating oil, diesel
F4	Liquids with a <b>flashpoint higher</b> than 100°C	Lubricating oils, vegetable oils
F5	Liquids with <b>low flammability</b>	Halogenated hydrocarbons
F6	Incombustible liquids	Water

Source: Based on VKF/AEAI

### Flammable liquids: Categories and quantities

	Maximum authorized quantity [I]		
Storage place (small container/tank)	Categories F1 and F2	Categories F3, F4 and F5	
Any type of room	max. 5	max. 30	
Cupboard made of hardly flammable materials	max. 100	max. 450	
Premises with specific structural properties designed to resist fire	> 100	> 450	

Source: Based on VKF/AEAI

### Flammable liquids: Large quantities

Quantity	Structural requirements
>100 litres (F1, F2) >450 litres (F3, F4, F5)	Flammable liquids can be stored together in a specific room built from <b>material with a fire resistance period of 30 minutes</b> and fire compartments.
>1,000 litres	<b>Each substance must be isolated</b> in a specific fire compartment.
>2,000 litres	Protection against lightning is mandatory.

 For compatible substances (A and B), storage compartments should be divided into storage subareas separated by at least 3 metres.



 For incompatible substances (A and C), storage compartments should be separated by at least 10 metres or by a firewall.



### Storage rooms must be properly ventilated

- Natural ventilation is sufficient if:
  - The room has two openings directly connected to the ambient air.
  - One opening is placed at a maximum height of 10 cm above the ground.
  - Each opening requires at least 20 cm<sup>2</sup> per square metre of floor area.
- Forced ventilation: Air extractors might be needed to renew the air 3 to 5 times per hour.
  - Extraction from the upper or lower part of the premises is chosen according to the gas property.
  - The opening must be placed at a maximum height of 10 cm above the ground.



### Storage rooms must be properly ventilated

- Forced ventilation is mandatory in large warehouses where liquids are stored in stacks on pallets.
- The air replacement frequency (3 to 5 air exchanges per hour) is calculated based on 3 metres elevation.



Source: ECA

### **Outdoor storage**

- Drums containing flammable liquids are preferably stored outdoors, so that any flammable vapour can readily disperse. Similar considerations may apply to the dispersion of vapours and fumes from drums containing toxic liquids or solids. In some cases, weather protection is provided by a roof.
- The next slide provides recommendations on outdoor storage from the Hazardous Chemicals Handbook, including safety distances to neighbouring buildings.
- As a comparison, the Swiss procedure for the evaluation of safety distances is presented on the next slide but one.

### **Outdoor storage: International recommendations**

- Label each drum and affix appropriate warnings (e.g. "Highly Flammable").
- Limit stack heights, e.g. 4.5 m for 200 litre drums, 5 m for drums stored on end and 4 m on pallets.
- Segregate highly flammable liquids and mark the stacks. Classify the area as Zone 2. Place material >15 m away from any working building, facility building or plant and 7.5 m from plant boundaries and boundary fences.
- Place stacks of combustible material >7.5 m away from buildings and 4 m from plant boundary fences.
- Restrict the number of 180 litre drums to 1,500.
- Provide >5 m clearance between adjacent stacks with access on three sides for fire fighting.

### Specific Storage Rules – Category 3 (Swiss Procedure)

### **Outdoor storage**

Buried or unburied tanks, stored outside a building or installation

- Access must be limited to authorized persons (a fence is mandatory, surveillance might be needed).
- A safety distance to neighbouring buildings must be observed, depending on the category, the volume of liquids and the risks for the neighbourhood.



### **Outdoor storage: Evaluation of the neighbourhood risk**

	Neighbouring building – Activity			
Neighbouring building – Type	Low danger (Production, treatment and storage of non-flammable material)	Medium danger (Engineering workshops, car repair, offices, apartments)	High danger (Storage/Treatment of hazardous materials, wood processing, printing, buildings with many occupants)	
Specifically resistant to fire	Low	Low	Low	
Non-flammable (concrete)	Low	Medium	High	
Flammable (wood)	Medium	High	High	

### **Outdoor storage: Safety distance for storage in containers**

[Metres]	Categories F1 and F2			Categor	ies F3, F4	and F5
Risk evaluation: Neighbouring building	<5,000 l	5,000- 50,000 l	>50,000 l	<5,000 l	5,000- 50,000 l	>50,000 l
Low	5	10	15	-	5	8
Medium	10	15	20	5	8	12
High	15	20	25	8	12	15

### Outdoor storage: Safety distance for storage in tanks

[Metres]	Categories F1 and F2			Categori	es F3, F4	and F5
Risk evaluation: Neighbouring building	Overpressure resistant tank	<500 m³	>500 m³	Overpressure resistant tank	<500 m³	>500 m³
Low	12	20	30	6	10	15
Medium	16	25	35	8	12	18
High	20	30	40	10	15	20

# Specific Storage Rules: Flammable Liquids – **Exercise**

# What are the **main dangers** related to flammable substances?

Provide four storage measures.

# Specific Storage Rules: Flammable Liquids – **Exercise**

### Main dangers:

- Flammability of the substance
- Potentially explosive vapours
- Storage measures:



Source: SUVA

Source: Suva



Min. 10 m

### **Storage Category 4.1: Flammable solids**

- Fire can smoulder for days or weeks, unnoticed, before actual flames are visible.
- Consider that even non-flammable solids can be explosive (dust or flour).



Source: Shutterstock

- Dust deposits must be avoided and regularly cleaned.
- Proximity to ignition sources must be avoided.
- For quantities over 1,000 kg, the substances must be isolated in a fire compartment.

# Storage Category 4.2: Pyrophoric (auto-flammable) substances

- Can ignite very fast when in contact with the air, even in very low quantities
- Examples: phosphor, freshly prepared metallic powders
- Must never be stored outdoors
- Must be protected from any heat source, the ambient temperature should be controlled
- Must not be stored with combustible, explosive or flammable substances
- For quantities over 1,000 kg, the substances must be isolated in a fire compartment.

### **Storage Category 4.3: Water reactive substances**

- Substances which in contact with water emit flammable gases that can ignite spontaneously
- Examples: calcium, zinc powder
- Must be stored in a dry place in hermetically closed containers
- Must not be stored with halogens (fluorine, chlorine, bromine)
- For quantities over 100 kg, the substances must be isolated in a fire compartment.
- Specific extinguishers must be available and the sign "Do not extinguish with water" must be visible.

# Storage Category 5: Oxidizing substances/organic peroxides

- Create highly flammable or explosive mixes with any combustible material, flammable substance or just paper, sugar or wood
- Examples: ferric nitrate, hydrogen peroxide, lead perchlorate
- Must not be stored with combustibles (even non-hazardous substances, wood or paper) or caustic substances
- Small quantities (less than 100 kg), can be stored in the same room as other substances, but in a separate specific metal box or cupboard. Some organic peroxides must be refrigerated.
- For quantities over 100 kg, the substances must be isolated in a fire compartment.

### **Storage Category 6.1: Toxic substances**

- Can be very harmful, even fatal, in very small quantities
- The storage premises must be secured and only accessible to authorized persons (key or code).
- For quantities over 1,000 kg, the substances must be isolated in a fire compartment.

### Storage Category 8: Corrosive and caustic substances SPECIFIC DANGERS

- Can be very harmful, even fatal, in case of contact with the skin, the eyes or in case of ingestion or inhalation of vapours
- Must not be stored with substances that create toxic gases with acids or with combustive and oxidizing substances
- Containers and catch basins must be resistant to corrosion (special plastics or resin).
- Acids and bases must be physically separated and stored on distinct catch basins.
- For quantities over 1,000 kg, the substance must be isolated in a fire compartment.

# Storage of Hazardous Waste

The same rules apply!

Store hazardous waste in the same way you would store the substance.

- $\Rightarrow$  Adequate labelling
- ⇒ Suitable storage premises
- ⇒ Proper storage conditions

 $\Rightarrow$  ...

## In Case of an Accident

Accident	Reaction	Required material
Spillage and leakage	Cover the liquid with absorbent material. The absorbent material used must be treated as hazardous waste. Confine the liquid. Evacuate the area.	Absorbent material (e.g. sand) Physical barriers
Contact with eye or skin	Rinse abundantly. Contact medical assistance.	Eye wash facility, shower (at least direct access to water) Phone
Inhalation	Breath fresh air and contact medical assistance.	Phone
Onset of fire	Extinguish if possible. Contact rescue services.	Fire blanket, extinguisher (specific to the chemicals stored)
60		

# Examples

# What Is Correct, What Is Not?



 Acid storage and transfer to operation area

- Correct:
  - Appropriate tank in terms of material and stability
- Wrong:
  - No label, no hazard warning
  - No catch basin

## What Is Correct, What Is Not?



 Hydrochloric acid stored in five 200litre containers

#### Correct:

- Appropriate containers in terms of material and stability
- Wrong:
  - Direct sun
  - No catch basin
  - Danger is not clearly indicated

## What Is Correct, What Is Not?



Source: CSD

- Paint and flammable substances stored in a metal cupboard in an operation area
  - Correct:
    - The place of each substance is labelled.
    - The cupboard is made of non-flammable material (metal).
  - Wrong:
    - The labels are not standard labels (some information is missing).
    - Some containers do not have any label.
  - To be checked:
    - Retention capacity might not be sufficient.

# Additional Information

- Hazardous substances are stored in different ways, usually on racks or in stacks. As long as the storage premises are small, the type of storage has no critical impact in case of a fire or a major accident.
- However, the larger the quantities stored, the greater influence the type of storage premises will have on the fire (accident) event.
- The type of storage has a direct influence on the safety measures to implement.

# Additional Information - Storage Rooms

Type of storage	Main dangers	Measures		
High-rack storage	<ul> <li>Very high influence of the packaging (wooden pallets, cardboard, plastic films)</li> <li>Storage location not always easily accessible</li> <li>Stack effect which can lead to the rapid propagation of a fire</li> </ul>	- When the storage height exceeds 7.5 m, the rules should be stricter (extinguishing installations might be required).		
Stacked storage	<ul> <li>Origin of the fire often inaccessible</li> <li>Collapse</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Limit the partial storage areas to 100 m<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>Impose minimum distances of 2.5 m between stacks.</li> <li>Limit the width per stack to a maximum of four pallets.</li> <li>Limit the height per stack to 5 or 6 m.</li> </ul>		
Bottle storage	<ul> <li>Bursting of pressure vessels (especially in case of an increase in temperature)</li> <li>Propagation of the fire by bottle or aerosol bombs projected in the air</li> <li>Propagation of gases</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Store outdoors or in a fire compartment.</li> <li>Implement ventilation measures.</li> <li>If necessary, install a gas detector.</li> <li>If necessary, provide extinguishing installations</li> <li>Protect against explosions.</li> </ul>		
Storage at very low temperatures	<ul> <li>Frostbites</li> <li>Asphyxiation</li> <li>Gas propagation</li> <li>Explosion</li> <li>Hypothermia</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Temperature monitoring</li> <li>Storage in a fire compartment</li> <li>Ventilation measures</li> <li>Protection against explosions</li> <li>If necessary, install a gas alarm unit</li> </ul>		

# Key messages

## A Storage Concept aims at :

- Matching local conditions and measures to the hazards of stored products
- Identifying conflicts and adjustment of storage
- Complying with legal requirements

Technical Solutions should be applied to adequately manage storage rules. Specific rules for each storage category should be established.

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