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ILLOGAN PARISH COUNCIL

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Policy

A hazardous substance is one that is defined as being one or more of the following:

- Harmful or irritant
- Toxic
- Very toxic
- Corrosive
- A biological agent
- A dust of any kind above a defined concentration in the air.

Hazardous substances can be in the form of a solid, liquid, gas, vapour, fume, dust or mist.

Hazardous substances can have one or more of the following effects:

- Irritant
- Corrosive
- Toxic
- Flammable
- Explosive
- Allergenic
- Carcinogenic
- Mutagenic
- Pathogenic
- Radioactive

The level of risk from substances harmful to health depends on the toxicity and dose. Toxicity is a measure of the chemicals potential to cause harm, while the dose is the amount of chemical that is absorbed into the body.

Illogan Parish Council when assessing risk will consider:

- How the chemical gets into the body
- The effect on the body
- How quickly the body responds to the substance, because people react at different rates and to different extents
- How often and for how long the exposure occurs

- Whether the employee is working directly with the substance, or whether it is being used in the immediate surrounding area, or somewhere farther away in the workplace
- Whether the employee is in the area where there has been an accidental release or spill
- If the person is wearing contaminated clothes or has come into contact with contaminated surfaces
- If contamination is passed from contaminated clothes into peoples skin

Illogan Parish Council will comply with The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (as amended).

The Council will obtain and retain copies of safety data sheets for all substances. A suitable and sufficient COSHH risk assessment will be completed by a suitably qualified competent person on all substances. All control measures identified will be implemented. The Council will ensure that all persons using hazardous chemicals are fully trained and competent in their use before allowing employees to use any chemicals or products.

Review Date:	Reviewed By:	Amendments