

Working with Bodily Spillages



INTRODUCTION

- Blood, semen, vomit, urine, faeces and other body fluids pose a risk to health, IF uncontrolled.
- The health risks include HIV, Hepatitis (A,B&C), salmonella and other pathogenic micro-organisms.
- In order to control these risks; training, safe systems of work, safe disposal and personal protective equipment must be supplied.

INFORMATION:

The following control measures are required for Handling body fluids:

- Training in the correct use and disposal of equipment must be provided by the Training Manager or Health and Safety Manager **PRIOR** to staff being exposed to body fluids.
- A suitable risk assessment **MUST** be created for this activity and signed by the Regional Manager.
- Where possible, all handling of body fluids should be approved by the Regional Manager.
- All body fluid waste should be treated as 'Special Waste' and be disposed of by an approved waste contractor.
- Any uncontrolled exposure to body fluids should be reported **IMMEDIATELY**.
- When choosing between the two different sizes of body fluids spillage kits, a decision should be made upon potential incident amounts and severity of health hazards (details of ordering the approved spillage kits can be obtained from H,S & E Manager).
- The spillage kits provided should be segregated from normal cleaning equipment and a **FULL** compliment of equipment maintained.
- If identified as part of the risk assessment (as not all operations are high risk), you will be entitled to vaccination(s) from your doctor, paid for by MITIE where required.

CONCLUSION:

- Your safety is PRIORITY, if in doubt ASK!
- Always wear protective equipment (it is a criminal offence if you do not!).
- Follow the risk assessment and safe system of work.
- Always correctly dispose of contaminated equipment.
- Ensure that all staff are made aware that handling body fluids is only to be conducted by trained, competent staff and that special precautions have to be taken.

NOTE: If you have any questions regarding this information please contact your Regional Manager or H, S & E Manager.