

9 Health and safety

- A** The average person finds it difficult to assess **risks**. For this reason, work practices need to be **regulated**. Examples of **dangerous** activities are:
- welding or grinding without **goggles**
 - working on a construction site work without a **hard hat**
 - working in **noisy** factories, cabs, on airport tarmacs and with outdoor machinery without ear **protection**
 - working in chemical areas without **protective** clothing
 - **smoking** near hazardous **substances**

Without regulation some employees will take risks.

Health and safety is a part of employment (labour) law. It covers general matters such as:

- **occupational health**
- **accident** prevention regulations
- special regulations for hazardous occupations such as mining and building
- provisions for risks such as **poisons, dangerous machinery, dust, noise, vibration, and radiation**
- the full range of dangers arising from modern industrial processes, for example the widespread use of chemicals

- B** The key concerns for health and safety are to assess the *risks and hazards* by identifying and quantifying the *effects* so that appropriate *protective measures* can be taken.

Risks and hazards

combustion • contamination • drains • dust • explosion
 flammable • friction • fumes • fumigation • gas
 harmful • shock • spraying • toxic • vapour

Effects

adverse effects • birth defect • burn • cancer • dizziness
 drowsiness • genetic damage • impair fertility • irreversible effect • vomiting

Protective measures

avoid contact with • dispose of • dry • handle • keep
 precautionary • protect • recycle • rinse • seal
 tightly • wash • well-ventilated

- C** The following health and safety notices show some protective measures that can be taken:

