

Explosives Policy

The Explosive Regulations 2014 set the requirements for the acquisition, manufacture and storage of explosives and desensitised explosives. An explosive substance is one with the potential to create a violent reaction with the potential to cause harm or damage to its surroundings by either shock, overpressure, thermal effects or projected effects and fragments. Explosives include explosive articles, explosive substances and desensitised explosives.

Explosives are classified according to criteria in the United Nations guidance on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. It is University policy that Class 1 explosives or desensitised explosives (as set out in the UN classifications) should **not** be acquired, manufactured or stored by the University. Any acquisition or storage must only ever be of substances that are classified under Schedule 2.

This Policy applies to and within all buildings across the University's campuses, including Gibbet Hill, Westwood and Wellesbourne. This Policy is supported by arrangements, instructions, and guidance on the management of explosive and desensitised explosives, which are available on the University's Health and Safety web pages.

Under the provisions of Regulation 26, Safety Regulations and associated University Health and Safety Policy document, it is the duty of all staff, students and others working in the University to comply with this Policy, together with any other instructions, rules and guidance that may apply.

Core Principles

1. Suitable and sufficient risk assessments must be made for any explosive substances, which if not properly controlled might cause harm to people as result of explosion.
2. The assessment must evaluate the adequacy of existing precautions, identify any additional precautions required and include actions to take in the event of a spillage and discovery of a potentially unstable material.
3. Workspaces where explosive materials are stored must be identified within the QuEMIS Hazards Module, and relevant hazard and risk information included within the module entry.
4. Appropriate signage or 'Notice Boards' will be displayed at the entrance to these workspaces.
5. Control measures will include, but not limited to: storage management procedures to ensure material remains secure, stable, reducing sources of oxygen, suitable engineering controls, general safety precautions, appropriate information and training.
6. Engineering control measures must be subject to suitable maintenance programme to ensure they remain in good working order, and records maintained.
7. Records must be kept of all risk assessments undertaken, information and instruction provided and all checks and maintenance carried out on safety measures and equipment. Regular reviews will be undertaken to ensure the information etc, remains suitable.

Responsibilities

Heads of Departments are responsible for the implementation of this Policy with regard to the use and storage of explosives within their respective areas.

All staff within departments must comply with this Policy and the associated arrangements, instructions and guidance.

The Director of Health and Safety is responsible for advising on the standards and regulations that must be achieved in order to meet legal requirements; for keeping the University's Health and Safety website up to date with the related policy documents and for ensuring that spot checks and audits are carried out to provide assurance that activities are being carried out in compliance with this Policy.

Review

This policy will be reviewed when any legal requirements change or at least once every three years.

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