

Chemical Safety

Chemicals are widely used by maintenance personnel in almost all types, states and forms: liquid, aerosols, gaseous, solid in barrels, sprays, boxes, IBC's, bottles etc.

Chemicals (consequently maintenance chemicals as well) always present a multitude of hazards independent of their inherent hazardous properties. Coming into contact with chemicals is never "innocent"; even lubricants are strong skin sensitizers. Most aerosols could explode under certain conditions. Spillages could harm the environment and natural habitat; mechanically or chemically degraded containers are most often found everywhere elevating the potential environmental as well as hygienic risk.

Chemicals are essential for maintenance works, as long as they are kept in properly maintained, closed, approved containers, stored in approved, especially equipped areas and used according to the Risk Assessment results and the SDS/ label guidelines.

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Conventional containers used for maintenance chemicals.



Conventional containers used for maintenance chemicals; the storage practices (on top of an electric panel) additionally present electrocution/ fire hazards; the jars on the right are usually used for alcoholic beverages.



Degraded chemical containers presenting hygiene as well environmental hazards.



Improper storage of aerosols; placing coffee cups and beverage bottles near chemicals enhances poisoning hazard.



A hazardous chemicals room obviously substandard; allocating "any area" to be a chemical storage room is not a good practice.



Eye wash and shower outside an outdoor Flammables Room Storage Area.



Secondary containment of the same area.



Severely corroded lubricant container; the free-standing storage at height presents a combined spillage risk.



Secondary containment (dike) under IBC's.



Eye wash station in chemical storage area for one-eyed persons ??? !!!