

UKMHA - Guidance information regarding the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmosphere Regulations (DSEAR).

This is to accompany UKMHA RA55 – DSEAR (*Preliminary Assessment Only*)

Stage 1 • Initial Assessment and Review

The initial requirement is to build an initial understanding of the company's site, processes and procedures, review all available documentation, check all hazardous substances in use, and confirm the required compliance levels.

This can be followed by a short report by the company identifying the scope and action plan that may be needed for Stage 2.

Using the UKMHA RA055 Assessment template, and the accompanying 'Stage One Assessment' template, this will become your stage one assessment. On completion, you should now have a clearer idea of what you may further require.

In stage two (*as outlined below*) the company will now need to draw plans, etc., of their site and place signage in key areas. Then you can re-assess using the same documentation as stage one, but now giving fuller and better controls, etc.

Stage 2 • More Detailed Assessments including Drawings and Plans of the site

During Stage 2, you need to complete your hazardous area classifications using signage and drawing up plans of the site, pointing out where the various classification areas are, review mechanical and electrical equipment, and identify ignition sources. Set out your required actions based on cost effective and practical solutions (*as far as is reasonably practicable*); a further report may then be drafted by the company, detailing all area classifications, recommendations and any (*even further*) actions.

It is during stage two, that the company will be required to decide on the correct 'zone' for each area of their storage, as in the following;

- *Zone 0 – a place in which an explosive atmosphere is present frequently, continuously or for long periods;*
- *Zone 1 - a place in which an explosive atmosphere is likely to occur occasionally in normal operation;*
- *Zone 2 - a place in which an explosive atmosphere is not likely to occur in normal operation but, if it does, it will persist for a short time only.*

Most companies that have to meet the DSEAR Regulations usually comply to the Zone 2 category, but this can only be decided by considering your working methods. Then re-assess.

As for stage three, (*see as outlined below*) is for the company to look at training and information, covering emergency requirements, and to remind the company to review their assessments after a longer period of time.

Stage 3 • Operation/Procedures

Review your training needs, operating and maintenance procedures, and emergency plans to ensure that continued compliance can be delivered. A detailed action plan can be drawn up and if and where appropriate, schedule ongoing reviews and audits for your business.

NOTE: After completing stage one, there are no real examples of how to do stages two and three, as companies need to produce their own drawings and plans and reports which are obviously unique to their business and premises.