

Overview of the regulations surrounding the storage and handling of flammable liquids in South Africa

Edition 1.0

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THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT

There are many dangers involved when handling flammable liquids in the workplace and when these dangers are underestimated fatal incidences can occur. Companies are ultimately responsible for the safety of their employees and rescue teams and therefore must take reasonable precautions when flammable liquids are handled and stored.

This information brochure will provide a summary of the current and applicable South African Safety regulations, standards and legislation and how companies can increase safety in their organisations with respect to the safe storage of flammable liquids.



"We strongly believe that only once the risks involved in handling hazardous materials are known, can they be actively avoided"

Meghan Magnusson, Brand Coordinator

1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND INTRODUCTION

Storing flammable liquids incorrectly can have huge and lasting consequences on a company. In an article addressing business interruption from a global perspective, published on the FA News website (www.fanews.co.za) the impact of fires and explosion on business interruptions was discussed.

In 2015 the Global Claims Review report from Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS), analysed more than 1 800 large business interruptions (BI) claims from 68 countries and risk managers concluded that the impact of BI can be the top risk that companies can face.

It is reported that approximately one in five businesses can suffer major business interruption each year. While it is not possible to avoid all risks, unfortunate events can hinder and affect an organisations operational capacity.

*During the years 2010 through to 2014, AGCS found that the majority of BI claims originated from technical or human factors (88% of BI losses) and the top ten causes of these BI losses account for over 90% of such claims by value, **with fire and explosion being the top cause of BI accounting for 59% of all BI insurance claims globally.** Each fire and explosion incident analysed averaged €1.7 million (R25 million) in BI costs alone and non-natural hazard events account for 88% of BI losses.*

Business interruptions that are due to fire and explosions when working with and storing flammable liquids can be reduced by taking the necessary precautionary actions to ensure your organisation and employees are protected from any unforeseen accidents.

Do you require more information on how to protect your property and your employees? Do you need further information on the South African legislations?

Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Sources:

EN 14470-1 Standard, SANS 54470-1 Standard, Occupation Health and Safety Act, Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Amendment Act, Criminal procedure Act, www.fanews.co.za