Lack of awareness is still the root cause of fire-related accidents at the workplace.

Sascha Kunkel, Vice President, Global Business Development
This is the second edition of the asecos HazMat Guide series for flammables. We have collected information from many sources and added our own content to make this an aid to help designing the safest possible workplace. This edition puts special focus on flammable storage. Look out for future HazMat Guide releases, specializing in corrosive storage, gas cylinder storage and more.

All HazMat Guides will be regularly reviewed and revised. We would be happy to receive your feedback, ideas or critiques and invite you to help us making this guide a valuable source of information in the industry. Feel free to send an email to academy@asecos.com

You will find that we sometimes refer to the German regulations (whenever we could not find an international source). Before applying this advice make sure to double-check with your local legislation and regulations. When in doubt you can always get in touch with one of our local agents or distributors. If nothing is available the German regulations might serve you as best-practice examples.

At the end of each chapter you will find „take away pages“, that conveniently summarize the most important elements.
## CONTENTS

### 1 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS | Terms & Definitions

1.1 What are hazardous materials? ................................................................. 8
1.2 How can hazardous materials be identified? ........................................ 10
1.3 Classification, Terms and Definitions of Flammable Liquids ................. 12
1.4 Measures for the protection of employees ............................................. 16
1.5 Consequences of improper storage ....................................................... 19
1.6 Chapter I - Take Aways ........................................................................... 22

### 2 STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

2.1 General – term definitions ................................................................. 26
- Different types of storage ................................................................. 26
- Joint storage ..................................................................................... 28
- Handling of empty storage containers ............................................. 33
2.2 Basic obligations for the storage of hazardous materials, irrespective of quantity 34
2.3 Building requirements for storerooms ............................................... 37
2.4 Chapter II - Take Aways ..................................................................... 42

### 3 STORAGE OF FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS IN FIRE RESISTANT SAFETY STORAGE CABINETS

3.1 Types of safety storage cabinets ......................................................... 46
- Comparison of safety storage cabinets ............................................. 48
3.2 Safety features of a fire rated safety storage cabinet according to EN 14470-1 56
3.3 Advantages of fire rated safety storage cabinets ................................. 58
3.4 Requirements of fire rated safety storage cabinets ............................. 64
3.5 Variations of safety storage cabinets .................................................. 70
3.6 Technical ventilation of safety storage cabinets .................................. 76
3.7 Special purpose-built solutions .......................................................... 78
3.8 Chapter III - Take Aways .................................................................... 80

### 4 ABOUT ASECOS ................................................................................. 82
IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

Many different dangers exist when handling hazardous materials.

The use of hazardous and combustible materials is part of the daily routine in most laboratories and industries and is unavoidable. What is often quickly forgotten in daily handling: the improper storage of such materials puts people, the environment and property in danger.

- **Fires and explosions** caused, for example, by the improper storage of combustible liquids
- **Pollution of soil, groundwater and surface water**, for example, by contaminated fire fighting water or leakages
- **Downtimes**, for example, due to laboratories destroyed by fires
- **Endangerment to human life**

Hazardous materials are therefore always very much a current topic for every laboratory and industry.

Apart from the proper handling of these health-endangering substances, strict storage regulations must be observed.

The legal basis concerning the handling of hazardous materials is defined

- in global regulations (e.g. GHS – globally harmonised system)
- in directives and guidelines of state confederations (e.g. the European Union)
- and finally in rules and laws of individual countries

► Do you know the legislation for handling hazardous materials in your country?
► Do you apply these rules wherever and whenever necessary?
► Do you already use appropriate storage facilities with the highest protection level?

Only if you have answered ‘Yes’ to all these questions can you stay safe!

The experts of asecos will be happy to assist you with all regulatory affairs in the field of hazardous material storage. Just get in touch with us.
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

1.1 WHAT ARE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS?

Hazardous materials are materials with the following properties:

- highly toxic
- toxic
- hazardous to health
- corrosive
- irritant
- sensitising
- oxidising
- explosive
- extremely flammable
- highly flammable
- flammable
- carcinogenic
- reprotoxic
- mutagenic
- dangerous for the environment
- releasing hazardous materials when handled
- chronically harmful in any other way

These terms can be explained as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGHLY TOXIC</th>
<th>materials which can cause temporary or permanent damage to health or even death, even in very small quantities e.g. hydrogen cyanide, phosgene.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOXIC</td>
<td>materials which can cause temporary or permanent damage to health or even death in small quantities e.g. methanol, chlorine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH</td>
<td>materials which can cause temporary or permanent damage to health or even death, e.g. glycol, iodine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORROSIVE</td>
<td>are materials, which can cause destruction of body tissue upon contact with the skin or mucous membranes, e.g. hydrochloric acid above 25 %, sodium hydroxide above 2 %.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRRITANT</td>
<td>materials which can cause inflammation upon contact with the skin or mucous membranes, e.g. hydrochloric acid between 10 and 25%, sodium hydroxide between 0.5 and 2%.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the manufacture or use of materials, hazardous materials may arise or be released, e.g. welding electrodes.

Other chronically harmful materials can cause damage to health when repeated or longer exposure occurs.
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Please note, however, that we assume no liability for any errors, mistakes and consequences.
The applicable state legislation has to be observed.
Sources: EN 14470-1, TRGS 510, TRGS 800, TRBS 2152/TRGS720, German Act on Protection Against Hazardous Substances (ChemG), GefStoffV, GGVSEB, GHS/CLP
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