

POISONS ACT 1972 AND CONTROL OF EXPLOSIVES PRECURSORS AND POISONS REGULATIONS 2023

BRITISH REGULATIONS ON THE MARKETING AND USE OF EXPLOSIVES PRECURSORS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REGULATION

CONSEQUENCES FOR PROFESSIONAL USERS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



The Poisons Act 1972, along with The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023, regulate the sale of chemicals that can be used for illegally manufacturing explosives or causing harm to the public. The new 2023 regulations seek to address key legislative priorities for controlling explosives precursors identified following the 2017 explosive attacks in both Manchester and Parsons Green. The measures will come into force on 1st October 2023.

The advice in this leaflet aims to help you prevent serious crimes, as well as fulfil your legal obligations.

HIGHLIGHTS

What are explosives precursors?

Explosives precursors are chemicals or mixtures that are usually used for legitimate purposes, but can also be misused to manufacture explosives.

Schedule 1A of the Poisons Act 1972 gives a full overview of the substances classified as poisons and explosives precursors.

- A Regulated substance is a poison or explosives precursor which can only be supplied to members of the public who they hold a licence, or to professional users for use as part of their business or profession.
- A Reportable substance is a poison or explosives precursor which can be sold to the general public and professional users without a licence.

Significant disappearances or thefts of either type of substance must be reported to the Police.

What are the goals of the Regulations?

- improve the safety of the commercial activities of poisons and explosives precursors;
- control movements, thefts and losses of poisons and explosives precursors;
- limit the availability of certain substances or mixtures to the general public;
- avoid the misuse and illegal manufacture of explosives;
- report suspicious transactions, thefts and disappearances of both regulated and reportable substances to the authorities.

Who is concerned by this Regulation?

The Regulations distinguish between **professional users** and the **general public**.

Members of the general public are not permitted to be legitimately supplied with regulated substances unless they hold an Explosives Precursors and Poisons (EPP) licence. As Oscrete only sells products categorised as poisons and explosive precursors to professional users, there is no further elaborate on these licences in this leaflet.

Which products are concerned?

Within the Oscrete product range, products of concern are those with:

- > 3% nitric acid.
- > 10% hydrochloric acid
- > 12% hydrogen peroxide,
- > 15% sulphuric acid,
- > 30% phosphoric acid or
- > 10% Oxalic acid
 - Regulated Substances
- > 17% potassium hydroxide,
- > 12% sodium hydroxide
- > 6% sodium hypochlorite
- > 15% formic acid or calcium nitrate

Reportable Substances

CONSEQUENCES FOR PROFESSIONAL USERS

All professional users are required to:



Inform/train all concerned staff.



Provide Oscrete with their company's name and address as well as the name of an authorised representative, a statement of the nature of its trade, business or profession and their VAT number. This must be provided every 18 months or whenever an update is required in-between.



Provide **photographic identification** of the authorised representative. Oscrete will ensure data privacy in accordance with GDPR law.



Ensure legitimate use of the products.



Ensure **safe storage** of the products.



Keep records of purchases for 18 months.



Report significant disappearances or thefts to the Police and report suspicious transactions to the 'Report Suspicious Chemical Activity Service' within 24 hours.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What happens if the required information is not supplied?

Without the listed information Oscrete is not allowed to sell you any products which are listed as regulated poisons or explosives precursors.

I have multiple sites. Is my statement valid for all?

No, Oscrete needs a separate customer statement per site/delivery address.

Lam a distributor. What should I do?

All distributors have the same obligations as Oscrete and you should gather the required information from your customers.

Do I need a licence to receive Explosive Precursors or Poisons?

No, this is not necessary for professional users. Licences are only required for members of the public who want to purchase products identified as poisons or explosives precursors.

What is considered suspicious behaviour?

Indicators of suspicious behaviour may include when a customer:

- Appears nervous, avoids communication, or is not a regular type of customer;
- Attempts to purchase an unusual amount or strange combinations of products;
- Is not familiar with the regular use/s of the product(s), nor with the handling instructions;
- Is not willing to share what the product(s) are to be used for;
- Refuses alternative product(s) or product(s) with a lower (but for the proposed use sufficient) concentration;
- Insists on paying cash, especially large amounts;
- Is unwilling to provide identity details if requested;
- Requests packaging or delivery methods that deviate from what would be ordinary, advised, or expected;
- Requests delivery to a different address than the company address.

Where can I find more information?

The gov.uk website provides more information and a complete list of the substances and mixtures and their concentrations.



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