



Safety Advice 02-2014 (UK) (Jan) (Distribution) Degreasing Wipes – Health Effects

The following safety advice outlines the potential health effects from degreasing wipes. The full safety advice follows below.

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Every employee and contractor working for Northern Powergrid, should go home at the end of each shift uninjured and in good health after a productive days work.

Degreasing wipes – potential for skin irritation

Another DNO recently published a safety brief to remind staff of a known issue with solvent cleaning wipes and the fact that they may cause skin irritation.

There is an ingredient in all degreasing wipes which is known to be a skin sensitizer. In some cases, where there is prolonged use of these wipes without any protection for the skin, it can result in a condition known as “contact dermatitis”.

We have checked the solvent wipes used in Northern Powergrid and they have a much lower content of the sensitizing ingredient compared to the solvent wipes highlighted in the other DNO’s brief.

However, there is still the possibility that contact dermatitis may result following prolonged use without using any protective gloves.

The majority of work procedures that involve the use of solvent wipes should be carried out wearing protective gloves appropriate to the task. Nitrile gloves provide the best protection against the degreasing agent in the wipes.



To prevent the possibility of any skin irritation from the use of solvent wipes, the following items are available, from Cromwell Tools Ltd, to be used when using the solvent wipes -

- A variety of solvent resistant gloves from disposable nitrile to heavy duty PVC coated (dependent on the application).
- A number of hand care products from barrier cream to protect the skin when working to conditioning cream for after work use.



If you use solvent wipes make sure that you check your skin regularly for any signs and/or symptoms of irritation. If you develop any form of skin irritation that could be attributable to the use of solvent wipes please let your supervisor know, so that Occupational Health can arrange to investigate and provide appropriate support.

The products contained in solvent wipes require the packaging to be labelled in accordance with COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations and our COSHH assessment will advise you on the protection measures required.