Purchasing Explosive Precursors and Poisons Procedure

From 1st October 2023 all businesses supplying regulated explosive precursors to businesses and professionals must take additional steps to verify legitimacy.

Below are lists of regulated substances and their concentration thresholds.

1. Explosives precursors

- ammonium nitrate: 16% N
- hexamine
- hydrochloric acid: 10% w/w
- hydrogen peroxide:12% w/w
- nitromethane: 30% w/w
- nitric acid: 3% w/w
- phosphoric acid: 30% w/w
- potassium chlorate: 40% w/w
- potassium perchlorate: 40% w/w
- sodium chlorate: 40% w/w
- sodium perchlorate: 40% w/w
- sulfuric acid: 15% w/w

2. Poisons

- aluminium phosphide
- aluminium sulfide
- sodium sulfide
- calcium sulfide
- magnesium sulfide
- arsenic compounds
- barium salts (other than barium sulphate, barium carbonate, and barium silicofluoride)
- bromomethane
- chloropicrin
- fluoroacetic acid, its salts and fluoroacetamide
- hydrogen cyanide and metal cyanides (other than ferrocyanides and ferricyanides)
- lead acetates and compounds of lead with acids from fixed oils
- magnesium phosphide
- mercury compounds
- oxalic acid: 10% w/w
- phenols (phenol; phenolic isomers of the following: cresols, xylenols, monoethylphenols); compounds of phenols with a metal, 60% w/w of phenols or, for compounds of phenols with a metal, the equivalent of 60% w/w of phenols
- phosphorus yellow
- strychnine and its salts and its quaternary compounds
- thallium and its salts
- zinc phosphide
- calcium phosphide
- 2,4- dinitrophenol and compounds including sodium dinitrophenolate

3. Compliance

To ensure the University complies with The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023:

- An authorised purchasers of explosive precursors and poisons persons must be appointed to each Research Group/ Area/ Department that is required to purchase these types of chemicals.
- The authorised purchaser must be appointed by an Executive Dean of Faculty/ Director of PSU to oversee the purchase and use of explosive precursors and poisons within in their defined area of responsibility.
- A register of all explosive precursors and poisons must be kept by the research groups/ departments and provided to the Health, Safety, Resilience and Sustainability (HSR&S) Department on request.
- A record of each Authorised Purchaser must also be kept and HSR&S copied into any appointments.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1 Authorised Purchaser of Explosive Precursors and Poisons:

- This individual must be of a senior position in a research group/ department such as principal investigator, head of department or other suitable person such as a member of technical staff.
- They will be appointed by the Executive Dean of Faculty by formal appointment letter which is available from HSR&S.
- Prior to purchase they must ensure that a prepurchase form has been completed for the chemical.
- Effective control measures are in place for managing the health, safety, security, and environmental impact for the lifespan of such chemicals in line with the chemical management system.

5. Information Requirements for Purchase

Suppliers will ask customers from the University to supply the following information**:**

- The business name/ address.
- Name of individual authorised on behalf of business to make purchase. This would be the person appointed by the Executive Dean of Faculty.
- A form of photographic identification of the authorised individual within the purchasing company (Passport, driving licence, business ID card).
- A statement relating to customer's trade, profession, or business and end-use.
- The customer's VAT number (if held).

6. Appointment Letters

Appointment letters can be obtained by contacting the Health and Safety Team (healthandsafety@swansea.ac.uk), who will consult with the relevant university parties to ensure the process is followed.