

Factsheet – Industrial users of cyanide

Who is this factsheet for?

This fact sheet is for industrial users of cyanide e.g. cyanide permit holders, under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 (HDPR) and who intend to continue to hold an approval under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* (the MPA) which replaced the HDPR on 27 September 2021.

This fact sheet may also be used by persons seeking to apply for a new approval under the MPA.

This factsheet details the changes and new requirements that apply to industrial users of cyanide under the MPA and the Medicines and Poisons (Poisons and Prohibited Substances) Regulation 2021 (the Poisons Regulation).

How will it affect me?

- Under the MPA cyanide is a restricted S7 (RS7) poison and a general approval will be required to buy, possess, apply or dispose of cyanide.
- Authorisations under the HDPR will transition as closely as possible to a new authority under the MPA. Persons who currently hold a cyanide permit will continue to be authorised until it expires, is cancelled, or amended.
- The holder of a general approval who operates from multiple sites may request one approval to cover all sites, rather than having separate general approvals for each site.
- A general approval holder for cyanide may be required to have a Substance Management Plan (SMP) if it is a condition of their authority. This will generally apply for specific quantities of cyanide. Please refer to the factsheet, '*Do I need a Substance Management Plan?*' to determine if an SMP is required.
- As before, industrial users will only be able to buy cyanide from a **licensed S7 poison wholesaler or retailer**. The purchaser will need to comply with purchase requirements and provide the supplier with evidence of their authorisation to buy cyanide.
- Section 64 of the Poisons Regulation 2021 specifies requirements for storage and transport of cyanide.

Substance management plans

- Existing authority holders will be given until 26 September 2022 to prepare their SMP (if required). Guidelines and templates will be available to support authority holders to prepare a SMP.
- The SMP must comply with the Departmental Standard: '*Substance management plans for regulated poisons – version 1*'. Please see the Departmental Standard for information and guidance on what to include in the SMP.

- The general approval holder will be responsible for developing and maintaining the SMP and may delegate the responsibility to a suitable person within the organisation.

How to apply for a general approval

To apply for a general approval to use cyanide, go to '[Poisons general approval forms fees](#)'.

For further information

- [Relevant factsheets and documents](#)
 - Do I need a Substance Management Plan?
 - Transitional arrangements
 - Poisons terms
- [Departmental Standard](#)
 - Substance management plans for regulated poisons – version 1