

# 9 Health and safety

**A** The average person finds it difficult to assess **risks**. For this reason, work practices need to be **regulated**. Examples of **dangerous** activities are:

- welding or grinding without **goggles**
- working on a construction site work without a **hard hat**
- working in **noisy** factories, cabs, on airport tarmacs and with outdoor machinery without ear **protection**
- working in chemical areas without **protective** clothing
- **smoking** near hazardous **substances**

Without regulation some employees will take risks.

Health and safety is a part of employment (labour) law. It covers general matters such as:

- **occupational health**
- **accident** prevention regulations
- special regulations for hazardous occupations such as mining and building
- provisions for risks such as **poisons**, **dangerous machinery**, **dust**, **noise**, **vibration**, and **radiation**
- the full range of dangers arising from modern industrial processes, for example the widespread use of chemicals

**B** The key concerns for health and safety are to assess the *risks and hazards* by identifying and quantifying the *effects* so that appropriate *protective measures* can be taken.

## Risks and hazards

combustion • contamination • drains • dust • explosion  
flammable • friction • fumes • fumigation • gas  
harmful • shock • spraying • toxic • vapour

## Effects

adverse effects • birth defect • burn • cancer • dizziness  
drowsiness • genetic damage • impair fertility • irreversible effect • vomiting

## Protective measures

avoid contact with • dispose of • dry • handle • keep  
precautionary • protect • recycle • rinse • seal  
tightly • wash • well-ventilated

**C**

The following health and safety notices show some protective measures that can be taken:

