StarPolymers Aspartech Products

Important

This document is a generic COSHH assessment template intended to assist customers using Aspartech products. It does not replace the current product Safety Data Sheet or site-specific COSHH and Risk assessments.

It is designed to be used alongside:

- The current Safety Data Sheet for each individual Aspartech component.
- The site-specific risk assessment and method statement.
- Any additional COSHH assessments required by the principal contractor or end user.
- Local rules relating to ventilation, access, waste, fire safety and emergency procedures.

COSHH assessments must be suitable and sufficient for the actual task and workplace. HSE guidance requires employers to identify hazardous substances, assess exposure, select appropriate controls and ensure those controls are properly used and maintained.

The information below uses a worst-case reference example. Individual Aspartech products and components may have fewer, different or additional classifications, so the SDS for the specific product being used must always take precedence.

We have produced this document to assist our customers with their own legal obligations however each site has its own specific risks and this COSHH assessment template only covers the risks associated with the use of Aspartech Resin Flooring products. Each installation will require their own risk and COSHH assessments.

The following template is divided into 22 individual components:

1. Activity
2. Persons who may be exposed
3. Hazardous Substance Information
4. Main routes of exposure
5. Persons at increased risk
6. Control Measures
7. PPE
8. Mixing controls
9. Application Controls
10. First Aid
11. Spillages
12. Environmental Precautions
13. Waste Disposal
14. Manual Handling
15. Storage
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1. Activity

Mixing and application of Aspartech resin flooring products in industrial and commercial environments.

Typical work may include:

- Transporting kits to the application area.
- Opening containers.
- Mixing two- or three-component products.
- Pouring mixed material onto the prepared substrate.
- Distribution using a squeegee, notched squeegee, roller or similar flooring tool.
- Back-rolling or finishing.
- Cleaning application equipment.
- Handling partially used or empty containers.
- Managing spills and waste.
- Allowing the installed product to cure before return to service.

Aspartech flooring products are normally applied across large, open floor areas, meaning significant natural or mechanical air movement will often be available. Nevertheless, ventilation and local site conditions must be assessed before work starts.

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2. Persons Who May Be Exposed

Potentially exposed persons include:

- Flooring installers.
- Mixing operatives.
- Supervisors.
- Other contractors working nearby.
- Cleaning or maintenance personnel.
- Waste-handling personnel.
- Delivery or warehouse personnel during unloading and movement of materials.

Unauthorised personnel should be excluded from the immediate mixing and application area until the flooring has reached the appropriate stage of cure.

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3. Hazardous Substance Information

Signal word: Warning

Pictogram: GHS07 exclamation-mark

The specific hazard statements shown are:

H317 – May cause an allergic skin reaction.
H332 – Harmful if inhaled.
H335 – May cause respiratory irritation
H412 – Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

The SDS also indicates:

- Acute toxicity by ingestion: **Not classified**.
- Acute toxicity by skin contact: **Not classified**.
- Acute toxicity by inhalation: **Harmful if inhaled**.
- Skin corrosion/irritation: **Causes skin irritation**.
- Serious eye damage/irritation: **Not classified**.
- Respiratory sensitisation: **Not classified**.
- Skin sensitisation: **May cause an allergic skin reaction**.
- Carcinogenicity: **Not classified**.
- Reproductive toxicity: **Not classified**.
- STOT single exposure: **May cause respiratory irritation**.
- STOT repeated exposure: **Not classified**.
- Aspiration hazard: **Not classified**.

No occupational exposure limit is assigned in the supplied SDS.

This assessment must not be interpreted as meaning that all Aspartech products have exactly the same classification. Always review the individual component SDS before use.

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4. Main Routes of Exposure

Skin Contact

This is likely to be the **principal foreseeable exposure route** during normal flooring installation.

Potential exposure may occur during:

- *Mixing*.
- *Pouring*.
- *Roller or squeegee application*.
- *Cleaning tools*.
- *Changing contaminated gloves*.
- *Handling contaminated containers*.
- *Cleaning spills*.

Because the worst-case reference material carries **H317**, direct skin contact should be prevented.

Inhalation

Under normal Aspartech flooring application, materials are generally poured, squeegeed and rolled, which substantially reduces the potential for airborne aerosol generation. Nevertheless, exposure to vapour, mist or airborne material should be minimised. Particular consideration should be given to applications undertaken in:

- confined or poorly ventilated spaces;
- enclosed rooms with limited air movement;
- unusually high application temperatures;
- areas where mechanical ventilation is insufficient;
- situations where mist, aerosol or airborne droplets could be generated.

Respiratory protection is normally not necessary, but adequate ventilation should still be maintained.

Respiratory risk must be reassessed where:

- *Work takes place in confined or poorly ventilated spaces.*
- *Material is heated.*
- *Aerosol or mist could be generated.*
- *Another Aspartech component has a different inhalation classification.*

HSE identifies isocyanates as important skin and respiratory sensitisers and recommends suitable gloves and protective clothing where exposure may occur.

Ensure adequate natural or mechanical ventilation during mixing, application and initial curing.

Avoid breathing vapours, fumes, mist or spray.

Where adequate ventilation cannot be achieved, suitable respiratory protective equipment should be selected following a task-specific assessment.

IMPORTANT:

Aspartech products should not be heated or spray applied.

Ingestion

Ingestion is unlikely during normal application but could occur through poor hygiene practices.

Eating, drinking and smoking should not be permitted in the immediate work area, and hands should be washed before breaks and at the end of the shift.

Eye Contact

Splashing may occur when:

- *Pouring components.*
- *Mixing at excessive speed.*
- *Transferring mixed material.*
- *Cleaning tools or containers.*

Eye protection should therefore be worn during mixing and application.

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5. Persons at Increased Risk

Additional precautions may be required for anyone who:

- Has previously developed sensitivity to epoxy, polyurethane, polyaspartic, isocyanate or other reactive resin products.
- Has existing dermatitis or damaged skin.
- Has been medically advised to avoid sensitising substances.
- Is undertaking repeated or prolonged resin-handling work.

Any suspected work-related skin reaction should be reported promptly.

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6. Control Measures

Elimination / Substitution

Where the task requires installation of the specified Aspartech system, elimination may not be practical.

However, unnecessary exposure should always be avoided. Only the quantity required for the immediate installation should be opened and mixed.

Engineering Controls

Normal application should take place in an open or adequately ventilated working area.

Where necessary:

- *Open suitable doors or vents.*
- *Use mechanical ventilation.*
- *Avoid creating stagnant enclosed zones.*
- *Prevent air movement from carrying contaminants into occupied areas.*
- *Maintain good housekeeping around the mixing area.*

Application Method

Preferred application methods include:

Pouring → Squeegee distribution → Roller finishing

These techniques minimise aerosol generation and should be used instead of spraying.

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7. Personal Protective Equipment

Hand Protection

Wear suitable chemical-resistant impervious gloves (gloves to EN 374).

Nitrile gloves are commonly suitable for many resin-handling tasks, but the installer must check the glove manufacturer's chemical resistance, breakthrough time and compatibility with the specific Aspartech component.

Replace contaminated or damaged gloves immediately.

For more prolonged exposure, longer gauntlet-style gloves may be appropriate. HSE specifically advises selecting gloves according to the product being handled and checking breakthrough time and permeation performance.

Eye Protection

Wear suitable safety glasses or goggles with side protection, particularly during mixing and pouring (EN 166 eye protection).

Protective Clothing

Wear suitable workwear such as:

- *Long sleeves.*
- *Long trousers.*
- *Protective footwear.*
- *Disposable or dedicated resin-flooring overalls where appropriate.*

Contaminated clothing should be removed promptly and washed before reuse.

Respiratory Protection

For normal open-area, roller-and-squeegee application:

“Normally no personal respiratory protection is necessary.”

“However, RPE may become necessary where ventilation is inadequate.”

Respiratory: Respiratory protection is not intended to replace adequate ventilation. Where ventilation is inadequate, or where the task-specific assessment identifies a potential inhalation exposure, suitable respiratory protective equipment must be worn.

Any RPE selection must be suitable for the hazard and task and should be covered by a separate site-specific assessment.

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8. Mixing Controls

Mix products strictly in accordance with the current Aspartech Technical Data Sheet.

Good practice includes:

- *Keep lids closed until required.*
- *Mix in a designated area.*
- *Protect the floor around the mixing station.*
- *Use a suitable low-speed mechanical mixer.*
- *Avoid excessive mixing speed that could create splashing.*
- *Do not put hands or tools into moving mixing equipment.*
- *Ensure electrical equipment is suitable for the working environment.*
- *Keep containers stable during mixing.*
- *Do not mix more material than can be applied within the stated working time.*

Do not alter mixing ratios unless specifically authorised by Star Uretech.

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9. Application Controls

During application:

- *Restrict access to the working area.*
- *Use clean squeegees and rollers.*
- *Avoid kneeling directly in uncured material.*
- *Immediately wipe significant contamination from gloves or footwear.*
- *Replace heavily contaminated PPE.*
- *Prevent uncured resin being walked into surrounding areas.*
- *Keep doors, walkways and emergency routes clear.*
- *Use suitable signage or barriers around freshly coated floors.*

Remember that freshly applied resin may also create a slip hazard until cured.

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10. First Aid

Follow the current SDS for the specific product.

Inhalation

Certain components carry:

H332 - Harmful if inhaled
H335 - May cause respiratory irritation

Adequate ventilation must therefore be maintained throughout application and initial curing. Remove the affected person to fresh air and keep them comfortable for breathing. Seek medical attention where symptoms persist or where significant exposure is suspected.

Skin Contact

Remove contaminated clothing. Wash affected skin thoroughly with plenty of water. Seek medical advice/attention if irritation, rash or other symptoms develop. Because the reference product carries **H317**, any persistent allergic skin reaction should be taken seriously.

Eye Contact

Rinse cautiously with clean water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses where present and easy to do. Continue rinsing and obtain medical attention if irritation persists.

Ingestion

Rinse the mouth. Do not induce vomiting unless instructed by medical personnel. Seek medical advice where necessary and provide the product label or SDS.

Precautionary Statements covered in this assessment:

P260 – Avoid breathing dust/fume/gas/mist/vapours/spray.
P280 – Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection.
P284 – In case of inadequate ventilation wear respiratory protection.
P302+P352 – IF ON SKIN: Wash with plenty of water.
P304+P340 – IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing.
P322+P313 – If skin irritation or rash occurs: Get medical advice/attention.

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11. Spillages

Small Spill - Prevent unnecessary access to the area. Wear appropriate PPE and avoid skin contact or inhalation of vapours or mist. Contain the uncured material using suitable absorbent or inert material and collect it into an appropriate waste container. Do not allow uncured resin to enter:

- Drains.
- Surface water.
- Watercourses.
- Soil.

Spillages and uncontrolled discharges into watercourses should be reported to the appropriate regulatory authority.

Larger Spill - Stop the source where this can be done safely. Contain the spill using appropriate barriers or absorbent materials. Prevent entry into drainage systems.

Large or uncontrolled spills should be managed under the site's environmental and emergency procedures.

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12. Environmental Precautions

The worst-case component carries:

H412 – Harmful to aquatic life with long lasting effects.

Uncured product must therefore not be discharged to drains, watercourses or the ground. Environmental contamination should be prevented during:

- *Mixing*.
- *Application*.
- *Cleaning*.
- *Spill management*.
- *Waste storage*.

Containers of uncured material should remain secure until appropriately treated or collected as hazardous waste.

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13. Waste Disposal

Uncured Material

Uncured Aspartech material should be treated as hazardous chemical waste unless the product-specific SDS or competent waste contractor confirms otherwise.

This includes:

- *Unused mixed material*.
- *Partially filled containers*.
- *Contaminated absorbents*.
- *Significant uncured residues*.
- *Cleaning waste containing uncured resin*.

Dispose of through an appropriately licensed waste contractor in accordance with local and national requirements.

Dispose of contents in accordance with applicable legislation and dispose with a licensed recycler, reclaimer, incinerator or hazardous/special waste route where appropriate.

Fully Cured Material

Once correctly mixed and fully cured, Aspartech resin forms a solid polymer.

Fully cured material can generally be handled as non-hazardous solid construction/building waste, subject to the waste classification requirements of the site and local waste contractor. Where practical, allow small quantities of correctly proportioned mixed residue to fully cure before disposal.

Never deliberately mix incompatible materials simply to alter their waste classification.

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14. Manual Handling

Individual Aspartech kits are below 20 kg, but the risk from manual handling still depends upon:

- *Individual capability*.
- *Repetition*.
- *Carrying distance*.
- *Floor conditions*.
- *Container shape*.
- *Working height*.
- *Access restrictions*.

HSE does not prescribe a universal safe lifting limit; manual-handling risk should instead be assessed according to the task and conditions.

Good practice includes:

- *Keep the load close to the body*.
- *Avoid twisting while carrying*.
- *Use two-person handling where appropriate*.
- *Avoid carrying multiple kits unnecessarily*.
- *Use trolleys or pallet trucks for longer distances*.

Palletised Deliveries

Aspartech materials may be delivered on pallets.

Pallet movement should therefore be considered separately from lifting individual kits.

Where suitable equipment is available:

- *Use a pallet truck, forklift or other mechanical handling equipment.*
- *Ensure the operator is trained and authorised.*
- *Keep pedestrians away from moving pallet loads.*
- *Avoid manually dragging or attempting to reposition heavily loaded pallets.*

HSE recommends reducing manual handling and using mechanical handling aids where appropriate.

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15. Storage

Store Aspartech products:

- *In original labelled containers.*
- *With lids securely closed.*
- *Upright and stable.*
- *Away from drains and watercourses.*
- *Protected from direct sunlight and extreme temperatures.*
- *Within the storage-temperature range stated on the product Technical Data Sheet.*
- *Away from incompatible substances identified on the SDS.*

Keep storage areas secure and restrict access to authorised personnel.

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16. Transport

The worst-case SDS states:

Not classified as hazardous for transport.

It identifies no applicable:

- UN number.
- UN proper shipping name.
- Transport hazard class.
- Packing group.

Individual Aspartech products must still be checked against their current SDS before transport, because classifications may differ between components.

Containers should remain securely closed and restrained during transportation.

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17. Emergency Arrangements

Before starting work, installers should know:

- *Location of washing facilities*.
- *Location of eyewash*.
- *Site emergency contact*.
- *Spill kit location*.
- *First-aid arrangements*.
- *Waste-storage location*.
- *Fire and evacuation procedure*.
- *Nearest route for emergency access*.

The supplied SDS requires a washing facility/water supply for eye and skin cleaning to be available.

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18. Training & Competence

Only personnel who have received appropriate instruction should mix and install Aspartech flooring products.

Training should cover:

- *Reading product labels and SDSs*.
- *Correct component ratios*.
- *Safe mixing*.
- *PPE selection and use*.
- *Spill procedures*.
- *Waste handling*.
- *Skin contamination prevention*.
- *Site emergency procedures*.

Where an applicable product contains regulated diisocyanates, ensure relevant personnel have completed any legally required safe-use training before handling the material.

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19. Risk-Control Summary

Risk ratings are indicative only and must be reviewed against the actual site, product and task. The following table must be used only as a generic template:

Aspartech COSHH – Risk Control Summary

Hazard	Persons at Risk	Initial Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Skin contact / allergic reaction	Installers	Medium	EN 374 chemical-resistant gloves, protective clothing, hygiene, immediate washing	Low
Eye splash	Installers	Medium	EN 166 eye protection, controlled low-speed mixing	Low
Inhalation during normal roller/squeegee application	Installers / nearby workers	Low–Medium	Good general ventilation, no spray application, review product SDS	Low
Uncured spill	Installers / environment	Medium	Spill kit, containment, gloves, prevent entry to drains	Low
Aquatic/environmental contamination	Environment	Medium	No discharge to drains/watercourses, hazardous waste controls	Low
Fresh coating slip hazard	Site personnel	Medium	Barriers, signage, controlled access	Low
Manual handling of individual kits	Installers	Low–Medium	Sensible lifting technique, trolley/team lift where required	Low
Movement of palletised materials	Warehouse/site personnel	Medium	Forklift/pallet truck, trained operator, segregate pedestrians	Low
Uncured waste	Waste handlers	Medium	Secure containers, hazardous waste procedure	Low
Cured resin waste	Waste handlers	Low	Confirm fully cured and dispose as appropriate solid building waste	Low

20. Site-Specific Information to Complete Before Work

Project / Site: _____

Location / Work Area: _____

Aspartech Product(s): _____

_____

_____

SDS Revision Date: _____

Assessment Date: _____

Assessor: _____

Number of Operatives: _____

Application Method:
☐ Squeegee
☐ Roller
☐ Other: _____

Ventilation:
☐ Large open area
☐ Natural ventilation
☐ Mechanical ventilation
☐ Restricted / enclosed area – additional assessment required

Required PPE:
☐ Chemical-resistant gloves
☐ Eye protection
☐ Protective clothing
☐ Safety footwear
☐ RPE – specify: _____

Water / Eyewash Available: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Spill Kit Available: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Safety Signage Available: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Waste Route Confirmed: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Site-Specific Additional Hazards:

Additional Controls Required:

Residual Risk: ☐ Low ☐ Medium ☐ High

Approved By: _____

Signature: _____

Review Date: _____

21. Assessment Summary

When Aspartech flooring systems are mixed and applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions using conventional squeegee and roller application, with appropriate gloves, eye protection and adequate ventilation, occupational exposure can normally be effectively controlled.

The principal foreseeable hazards arise from contact with or exposure to the uncured components, particularly:

Allergic skin reaction; harmful exposure by inhalation; respiratory irritation; accidental skin or eye contact; spillages of uncured material.

The assessment must therefore distinguish clearly between uncured reactive material and the fully cured flooring system.

Residual Risk

Normal application in a large, adequately ventilated industrial area using squeegee and roller:

LOW, provided specified controls and PPE are followed.

Application in a confined or inadequately ventilated area:

A separate site/task-specific assessment is required, with particular consideration given to ventilation and respiratory protection.

22. COSHH Assessment Statement

Provided that the current product Safety Data Sheet has been reviewed, suitable PPE is worn, good ventilation is maintained and the product is applied using the normal **pour, squeegee and roller method**, foreseeable occupational exposure during normal Aspartech resin flooring installation can generally be controlled to a low level.

The greatest routine emphasis should be placed upon **preventing skin contact, protecting the eyes, maintaining good ventilation, controlling uncured spills and ensuring uncured waste cannot enter the environment**.

This document is a generic COSHH assessment template intended to assist customers using Aspartech products. It does not replace the current product Safety Data Sheet or a site-specific COSHH assessment.

Individual workplaces may introduce additional hazards including confined spaces, poor ventilation, other chemicals, vehicle movements, hot works, machinery, ignition sources, restricted access or simultaneous trades.

Before work begins, the responsible person must review the current SDS for the specific Aspartech product being used and assess the actual conditions at the installation site.

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