



## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This Information Note gives outline advice to employers who need to store petroleum-spirit and/or petroleum mixtures in the course of their trade or businesses.
- 1.2 For further detailed information on the safe storage or use of petrol - employers should refer to the Approved Codes of Practice & Guidance and other guidance published by the Health & Safety Executive.

## 3 Restrictions on the Amount of Petrol that can be Stored

- 3.1 DSEAR requires, so as far as is reasonably practicable, risks from dangerous substances are controlled and to mitigate the effects of any fire or explosion arising from dangerous substances. This should be done by performing a risk assessment, identifying means to reduce risks to a minimum. You should look at the storage area to ensure that:
  - it does not have any sources of ignition, and that none should be brought into the area;
  - it should be properly ventilated;
  - refilling of equipment should take place in the open air and away from sources of ignition;
  - care is taken to avoid spills and the consequences of a leak or spill is assessed (sand should be available for large spills); and
  - containers should be kept closed and in an upright position when not in use.
- 3.2 If the storage area is not a workplace, please see our PAN752
- 3.3 It is recommended that the maximum quantities that may be stored in UN containers in secure cabinets are no more than 50 litres for those flammable liquids with a flashpoint below the maximum ambient temperature of the workroom/working area; and no more than 250 litres for other flammable liquids with a higher flashpoint of up to 55°C.
- 3.4 Further guidance can be found in:
  - “*Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002. Approved Code of Practice and guidance*” - L138. This Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance provide practical advice on how to comply with the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres; and
  - HSG140 “*Safe use and handling of flammable liquids*”. This publication has a four-fold intention to: increase awareness of the hazards and the precautions needed when using such liquids; advise on safe operating procedures; offer guidance on the appropriate standards for plant and equipment; and advise on the need for appropriate fire precautions, maintenance, training and good housekeeping.