

Chemical safety in Stockholm schools: Support and guidance from the Education Administration for 170 municipal schools

Jonny Gullstrand

Education Administration, The City of Stockholm, Sweden



Stockholms
stad

Abstract: This abstract outlines the efforts of the Education Administration at the city of Stockholm to promote chemical safety in our schools. Emphasizing the schools' obligation to prevent illness and accidents, the Education Administration offers support and guidance to ensure a safe teaching environment for chemistry. There are a total of 170 municipal schools in Stockholm, of which 80 of them have chemistry and science education. These include both junior high schools (years 7–9) and senior high schools (years 10–12). Upper stages before going to college.

Keywords: chemical safety, administration, Chemsoft

Contact: jonny.gullstrand@edu.stockholm.se

** Please, don't hesitate to contact me at for further questions and information.*

Introduction

Jonny Gullstrand, the chemical safety coordinator, serves as the contact person for schools seeking support and advice on chemical safety. Primarily for teachers in chemistry and science and for the school management.



Support and guidance

The following areas are covered in the support and guidance provided:

1. Regulations regarding handling, storage, and labeling of chemicals.
2. Protective equipment in chemistry and natural science departments and associated regulations.
3. Management of chemical waste.
4. News monitoring for new discoveries on the hazards of substances.
5. Substitution of phased-out substances and risk-reducing agents.
6. Risk assessments for laboratory experiments and demonstrations.



7. Advice and support on chemical safety.
8. On-site school visits to provide guidance and support.
9. Assisting schools during inspections by the Work Environment Authority and the Environmental Administration.
10. Organizing "Training for Managers of Flammable Substances."
11. Chemistry events - information and inspiration sessions for chemistry and natural science teachers.
12. Becoming a user of Chemsoft and learning how to use the system.

Chemsoft

Chemsoft is the city's system for cataloging all chemical products and substances used in various activities, such as kitchens, cleaning, maintenance, crafts, arts, vocational programs in high schools, chemistry, and natural sciences.

Its use is guided by EU directive and national legal requirements, as well as Stockholm's chemicals plan and environmental program. The system is used to create chemical inventories, generate safety data sheets, and identify chemicals and chemical products to be phased out from school activities due to environmental and health concerns.

Schools determine the appropriate individuals to become Chemsoft users. This may include administrative managers, kitchen supervisors, and caretakers. Schools offering chemistry and natural science courses also require users from these departments, primarily teachers in chemistry. To become a Chemsoft user and receive invitations to information and training sessions, users contact the chemical safety coordinator.