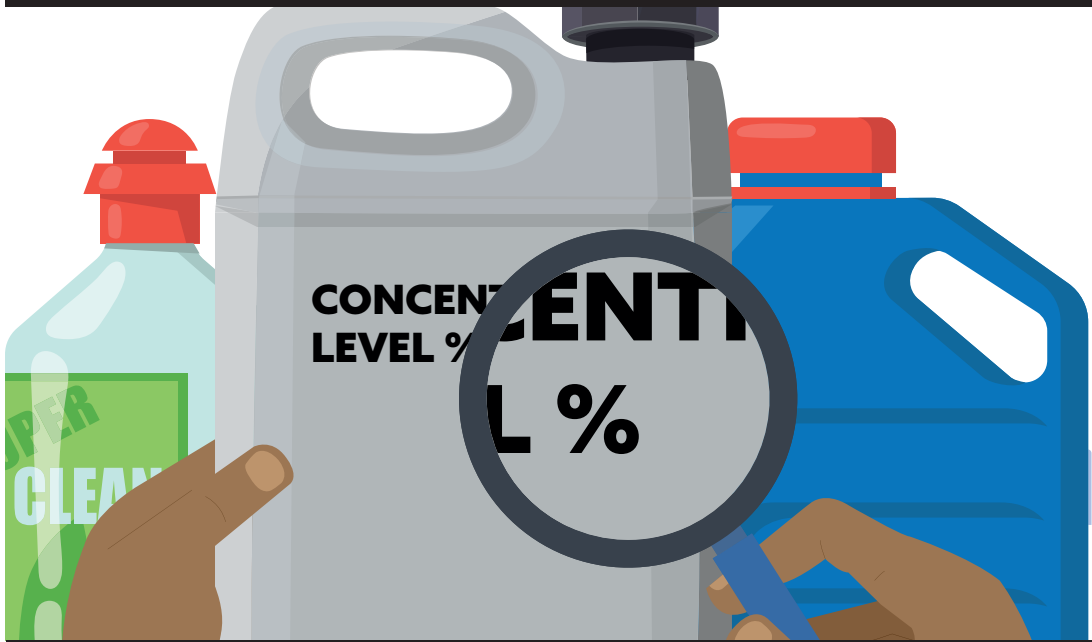


Selling Chemicals Responsibly

Help keep us all safe and prevent terrorism



The Poisons Act regulates the sale of chemicals that can be used for illegally manufacturing explosives or causing harm to the public. As a business, it's your responsibility to know what you are selling and who you can sell to. You can help prevent serious crime and terrorism, so read on to learn how your actions keep us all safe.



Home Office



Know the law

The Poisons Act requires all businesses selling regulated and reportable substances to report any suspicious transactions and significant losses or thefts.

As a business, you need to:

- know what chemicals are in the products you sell
- educate your staff about their responsibilities under the law
- report all in-store and online transactions that seem suspicious
- report all significant losses or thefts

You must only sell regulated substances above the set concentration limit to a member of the public if they hold a Home Office-issued explosives precursors and poisons licence. It's a criminal offence to sell regulated substances to a member of the public without a valid licence and photo ID.

Business-to-business sales and professional users do not need a licence. But always check whether a customer is an authorised business or professional user, and whether the substance has a valid use for their trade or business.



Know your products

The Poisons Act provides a list of regulated and reportable explosive precursors and poisons. Here are some examples and common products they're found in.

Chemical	May be present in
Hydrogen peroxide	Bleach, hair bleach, disinfectants, cleaning agents
Nitric acid	Etching agent, metal treatment, pH adjuster
Ammonium nitrate	Fertiliser, cold packs
Acetone	Nail polish remover, solvent
Hexamine	Solid fuel for camping stoves and model steam engines
Sulfuric acid	Drain cleaner, acid for car batteries

For a full list of chemicals visit
www.gov.uk/explosive-precursors-poisons



Know your customer

Look out for unusual behaviour in your customers. To identify a potentially suspicious transaction, ask yourself:

- Are they your regular type of customer?
- Do they appear nervous, or are they avoiding communication?
- Are they trying to buy an unusual amount of a product or a strange combination of products?
- Are they unfamiliar with the product's handling instructions?
- Are they refusing to buy a lower concentration product?
- Are they unwilling to share what they plan to use the product for?
- Are they insisting on paying in cash?
- Are they unwilling to provide ID or home address details?
- Are they requesting unusual packing or delivery methods?



What to do if you're suspicious

If you're suspicious of a transaction, it's your legal responsibility to report it whether you declined or continued with the sale. Your actions can prevent criminals and terrorists accessing harmful substances.

To report suspicious behaviour go to
gov.uk/explosive-precursors-poisons

If you can't access the web page phone the Anti-Terrorist Hotline
0800 789 321

To report loss or theft of chemicals call the police on **101**,
in an emergency dial **999**

For further information or advice please contact
ChemicalReportingTeam@homeoffice.gov.uk



gov.uk/explosive-precursors-poisons