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L RESOURCE





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2. The law and sharps injuries ..... 7

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3. Implementing the directive and supporting the reh772.19 (n r)-6.....



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## RCN survey of blood and body fluid exposures in 2020

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### When do accidents occur?

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## The risks of contracting an infection

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### Mucocutaneous exposure

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### Percutaneous exposure

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Regulations	Key requirements	Application to sharps injuries
<p>Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013 and the Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.</p> <p>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) / Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Northern Ireland) 2003.</p>	<p>v w u u u u u u t t t</p>	<p>u t w v</p>



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Regulations	Key requirements	Application to sharps injuries
<p><b>Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981 and The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982.</b></p>	<p>u</p> <p>u</p> <p>u</p> <p>t</p>	<p>t u</p>
<p><b>Safety Representatives and Safety Committee Regulations. 1977 and the Safety Representatives and Safety Committee (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1979.</b></p>	<p>u t</p> <p>u</p> <p>u</p> <p>u t u</p> <p>u</p> <p>t</p>	<p>t u</p> <p>u</p> <p>t u</p> <p>u</p> <p>t</p> <p>t</p> <p>t</p>
<p><b>BS EN ISO 23907:2 - 2019 - Reusable Sharps Containers</b></p>	<p>u</p> <p>t</p> <p>vwy v t</p> <p>u</p> <p>t</p> <p>t</p> <p>u</p> <p>t</p>	<p>t u</p> <p>u</p>

## The Health and Safety (Sharp Instruments in Healthcare) Regulations 2013

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### Who has to comply with the regulations?

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### Following a sharps injury

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### The main requirements of the regulations

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### Definition of 'reasonably practicable'

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### Duty on employees

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### Consequences of not complying with the law

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## Other requirements on health care providers

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[england.nhs.uk/publication/national-infection-prevention-and-control](https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-infection-prevention-and-control)

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[phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/chapter-1-standard-infection-control-precautions-sicps](https://phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/harp/infection-prevention-and-control/nipcm/chapter-1-standard-infection-control-precautions-sicps)

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<https://www.rqia.org.uk/>

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[niinfectioncontrolmanual.net](https://www.niinfectioncontrolmanual.net)

u t v t Hierarchy of controls  
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## Risk assessment

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**Step 2: decide who might be harmed and how**

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## Engineering controls

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## Administrative controls

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## Work practice controls

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Types of safety-engineered devices	Example
Needleless connector systems	
Protective sheaths	u
Retractable needles or blades	H u
Self-blunting	u t t
Reusable Sharps Containers	u u t H vwy v v y

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

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### Step 4: record your findings and implement them

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### Step 5: review your assessment and update if necessary

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# Policies

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## First aid





## What employers should be doing

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## What can safety representatives do?

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*and evaluating a sharps injury prevention programme* v *Workbook for designing, implementing*  
[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**

[www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

**Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland**

[www.HSENI.gov.uk](http://www.HSENI.gov.uk)

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**Safer Needles Network**

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[saferneedles.org.uk](http://saferneedles.org.uk)

**NHS Employers**

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[www.nhsemployers.org](http://www.nhsemployers.org)

**European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)**

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<http://osha.europa.eu/en/sector/health care>

**European Biosafety Network**

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	Organisational level	Yes/No	Don't know/notes
12			

Department: All clinical areas					



**RCN quality assurance**

**Publication**

H u

**Description**

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Royal College  
of Surgeons