



## **HEALTH & SAFETY DOCUMENT**

### **POLICY ON PETROL AND DIESEL (FUEL)**

The storing and use of fuel in the workplace or in a vehicle presents a potential hazard. Fuel is extremely flammable. Fuel vapours may travel long distances and are potentially explosive. Always treat and use fuel with care and caution.

How fuel is stored in the workplace is restricted by law to either metal containers with a maximum capacity of 20 litres, or approved plastic containers with a maximum capacity of 5 litres. They should be fitted with a screw cap or closure to prevent leakage or vapours to escape. They should be clearly labelled as to their contents. Always use the petrol container for petrol and the diesel container for diesel.

**NEVER SWOP THE CONTAINERS OR USE CONTAINERS PREVIOUSLY USED FOR OTHER CHEMICALS/OILS.**

**NEVER USE UNLABELED CONTAINERS FOR FUEL OR CHEMICAL/OIL**

Fuel and fuel vapours can cause irritation to the skin; eyes, nose and throat, and exposure in a confined space can cause dizziness and unconsciousness. Fuel entering the lungs or stomach can be fatal. Spills can also cause harm to the environment.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

1. Do not smoke, strike matches or use lighters in the vicinity of fuel
2. Decant the fuel in the open air – not inside
3. Use a pouring spout to prevent spillage
4. Do not use the mouth to siphon or suck fuel. If petrol is accidentally ingested seek medical help immediately
5. If clothing is splashed with fuel, change it immediately
6. Do not use fuel to light bonfires
7. Do not mix fuel with other fuel (e.g. petrol and diesel) or other solvents
8. Do not hoard fuel in the vehicles or in the storage sheds
9. Keep storage sheds locked and secured at all times
10. Take care when filling the vehicle or the approved containers
11. Do not overfill the tank or the approved containers
12. Check that the cap is securely in place and check for leakages
13. Always clean up spillages promptly
14. Ensure the container is fastened in the vehicle during transit to prevent spillage
15. Never use fuel as a cleaning agent
16. Store fuel away from sources of heat, including sunlight