



## Active skin protection when using coolants: What you need to know!

In the machining and shaping industry, the skin is exposed to high temperatures, mechanical irritants and dust. Even coolants that are used can sometimes damage the skin. Using a skin-friendly coolant and handling it correctly can greatly contribute to reliable skin protection and health and safety. In this newsletter, Siebert will tell you all you need to know about skin protection.

### **Skin protection and hygiene plan**

Generally speaking, the employer is responsible for ensuring that potential hazards are minimised in the workplace. This includes the use of coolants. Even if employees are required to wear working clothes with gloves and other protective equipment, contact between coolants and skin can never be completely prevented. Contact with coolants can cause the skin to dry out or become damaged. Allergies and infections are also possible.

Depending on the fluids used, a skin protection and hygiene plan is therefore



necessary. This plan states the skin products that are to be used and provided by the employer.

Company physicians and manufacturers of protective products can provide advice

on suitable skin products. Employees will therefore always know when to use which protective product (divided into skin protection, skin cleansing and skin care products) recommended for their area of manufacturing.

**Overview of use:**

**Skin protection**

The skin protection products cited in the plan must be used before starting work, after breaks and after every wash.


**Skin cleansing**

Skin must be cleansed with a pH-neutral or slightly acidic cleanser containing no scrubbing medium before breaks and at the end of the working day.


**Skin care**

The skin care products cited in the skin protection plan must be used at the end of the working day.

**Handling coolants**

Even when using protective products, handling fluids responsibly is still essential. Employees at mechanical manufacturing companies should therefore avoid eating, drinking or smoking at workplaces where coolants are used and should avoid touching their mouth or eyes with contaminated hands. Dirty skin must be washed thoroughly. Washing facilities with hot running water and means for drying must therefore be provided for complete hygiene in the workplace.

By using a coolant that is very skin-compatible, employers can actively contribute to a significant element of health and safety and skin protection, at the same time as maintaining high performance levels. What do you need to look out for in coolants?

**Products that are free from amines and boric acid are very skin-friendly.**

Amine and boric acid-free coolants have excellent properties; they minimise the risk of allergies and are very compatible with skin. The absence of amines also prevents the formation of carcinogenic nitrosamines. According to recent research, the absence of amines makes coolants much more skin-friendly and minimises risks when they come into contact with skin.

**Benefits for employees and companies**

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Employees are not the only ones who benefit from skin-friendly coolants, which markedly reduce health risks in the workplace. An increasing number of process owners, such as production managers and foremen, are also reaping the benefits of skin-friendly products. They are making a significant contribution to active employee protection when using fluids and, at the same time, they are reducing losses due to illness – a considerable saving in costs.

**Optimum health and safety as well as high performance**

As an innovation leader, Siebert offers amine and boric acid-free coolants as part of its product range. These coolants are just as high-performing as other comparable fluids and work in favourable pH conditions of from 7.5 to 8.5, thus ensuring a low allergy risk and optimum skin protection. Measurements that indicate the natural loss of moisture from the skin (TEWL – Transepidermal Water Loss) also confirm the skin-friendly properties of the fluids.

The appropriate Siebert coolants and their intelligent coolant additives help your customers not only to minimise the risk of damage to employees' skin, but also to keep illness costs low from the start onwards, for optimum health and safety combined with high performance and long service life.

**We are there for you**

Please feel free to contact us with any questions about health and safety and about our products. Our Siebert expert Hans van Gerwen will be happy to help.

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