

Safety Alert

Stay alert when using alcohol-based hand sanitiser

Have you been using alcohol-based hand sanitiser to disinfect your hands? Make sure not to use too much, ensure your hands are dry before touching anything, and do not leave the hand sanitiser in a car out in the hot sun. There is a chance of burn injuries, and the hand sanitiser could spontaneously combust.

Alcohol is inflammable

In order to prevent coronavirus infection, many people have currently resorted to using hand sanitiser. However, using alcohol-based hand sanitiser is not entirely without risk. As a result, a number of companies have issued a safety notice, while the Brandwondenstichting, the Dutch burn injury foundation, has also done so.

- **Alcohol-based hand sanitiser can cause burn injuries**
Do not use the hand sanitiser in the vicinity of open fire, such as in the kitchen or when barbecuing. Another cause of injury could be touching an electrostatically charged surface before the alcohol has fully evaporated. The resulting spark can ignite the alcohol vapour, with burn injuries as a result (see picture of the hand).
- **Heat can cause alcohol-based hand sanitiser to ignite**
Alcohol-based hand sanitiser can already ignite at temperatures above 21°C. Storing it at temperatures occurring during the summer can involve a greater risk, such as leaving it behind in a car in a car park out in the sun. (see picture of the car)

Advice

- Only use alcohol-based hand sanitiser if washing your hands with soap and water is not an option.
- If you do use alcohol-based hand sanitiser, let your hands dry fully (let the alcohol evaporate) before touching anything.
- Do not leave alcohol-based hand sanitiser behind in a vehicle that will be out in the sun for lengthy periods of time.

*Any questions on safety at work? Please get in touch with us:
safe_office@schiphol.nl*



Schiphol

HSE Office
May 28th 2020