

WL22

Expert advice

COSHH essentials for welding, hot work and allied processes



This information will help employers (including the self-employed) comply with the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

Regulations 2002 (COSHH), as amended, to control exposure and protect workers' health.

It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

Welding fumes can cause lung disease, with an increased risk of asthma and cancer.

Cutting fume is associated with an increased risk of lung disease and asthma.

This sheet outlines the need for specialist help on good practice where the task is associated with severe health hazards.

Control approach 4 Special

Risk assessment

- ✓ You have a situation requiring specific and specialised advice to control very serious health hazards, including work in confined spaces.
- ✓ Advice may be found in other, detailed HSE guidance. You may need to involve a health and safety expert such as a qualified occupational hygienist.
- ✓ An occupational hygienist can provide site-specific risk assessment and advice on control, including the possibility of substituting less hazardous chemicals or processes.
- ✓ Confined space work requires individual risk assessment and control regimes.
- ✓ It is important that you do seek advice.
- ✓ You should consider health monitoring. See sheet G401.
- ✓ Consult an occupational health professional - see 'Useful links'.

Useful links

- Your trade association may advise on health and safety consultants and training providers.
- For information about health and safety, or to report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, visit www.hse.gov.uk/. You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at www.bohs.org for lists of qualified hygienists who can help you.
- Look in the Yellow Pages under 'Health and safety consultants' and 'Health authorities and services' for 'occupational health'.
- Also see www.nhsplus.nhs.uk.
- For environmental guidelines see sheet WLO

This document is available at: www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/ and www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/essentials/

This document contains notes on good practice which are not compulsory but which you may find helpful in considering what you need to do.

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