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*Fire & Integrated
Solutions*



Local Exhaust Ventilation Environmental Solutions

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (CoSHH) regulations initially came into force in 1989 but have since been revised to the current CoSHH regulations 2002 (5th Edition). This flyer is designed to provide an update on the current legislation.

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What is a Hazardous Substance?

A hazardous substance is anything that can cause harm to someone if not adequately controlled. Such substances can be found almost anywhere, including shops, factories and offices. They can also include the fumes from glues and paints and even dust in certain concentrations. In addition, offshore drilling rigs and production platforms often utilise a variety of substances that require some form of control measure. (Note: lead and asbestos are controlled by their own regulations.)

Who is Responsible for Control Measures?

It is the legal responsibility of the employer (and self employed) to assess the risks to the employees and others. Where reasonably practicable, the exposure level should be prevented or otherwise controlled to reduce concentration to acceptable limits.

How Do You Assess the Risk?

Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions can provide a comprehensive CoSHH assessment comprising four steps as detailed below:

1. Assess the hazard / risk
2. Determine precautionary measures
3. Eliminate or control the hazard
4. Maintain and audit control

In addition, Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions can provide personnel training in the effective use and maintenance of LEV systems. The CoSHH regulations also call for LEV systems to be tested at least every 14 months by a competent person.

What Control Measures are there?

If the hazardous substance cannot be effectively removed from the process, and there are no other practical means of reducing personnel exposure, then some form of control will be required. The three recommended methods of control are:-

1. Containment (process enclosure with local exhaust)
2. Local Exhaust Ventilation
3. General Ventilation

The use of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) should not be implemented as a substitute for any of the above.



Final Thought

A 1995 survey indicated that there were 200,000 cases of lower respiratory disease and 66,000 cases of skin disease reported in the UK alone each year, where the majority were linked to exposure to substances in the workplace hazardous to health. (Source: www.hse.gov.co.uk.) Tyco Fire & Integrated Solutions can provide advice on all aspects of the CoSHH regulations. We have a team of fully trained CoSHH inspectors who can assess your systems and advise what ventilation is required to control hazards to suitable exposure levels. We can also design, install and maintain purpose built LEV systems.

Our management systems are accredited to BS EN ISO 9001:2000 (Quality Assurance), BS ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental Management) and OHSAS 18001:2007 (Occupational Health and Safety). We have also achieved Investors in People certification.

Should you have any further questions regarding CoSHH, LEV systems or any other ventilation issue, please do not hesitate to contact:

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