

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002

Technical Bulletin

Allianz Engineering Inspection Services Ltd



COSHH 2002

COSHH 2002 was reviewed and amended in 2003 and again in 2004. A revised Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) – the 5th edition – has been issued by the Health and Safety Commission to provide practical guidance on the latest amendment which came into force on 6 April 2005.

The 2004 amendment:

- a introduced a new framework for the principles of good practice for the control of exposure to substances hazardous to health
- b replaced occupational exposure standards (OELs) and maximum exposure limits (MELs) with workplace exposure limits (WELs)

The objective of COSHH

is to prevent, or adequately control, exposures to substances hazardous to health so as to prevent ill health. The new framework for the principles of good practice has been developed to help employers achieve an adequate level of control.

The new framework comprises of eight generic principles that, when applied correctly and completely, will enable the employer to obtain effective and reliable control of the hazardous substance:

- a Design and operate processes and activities to minimise emission, release and spread of substances hazardous to health
- b Take into account all relevant routes of exposure – inhalation, skin absorption and ingestion – when developing control measures
- c Control exposure by measures that are proportionate to the health risk
- d Choose the most effective and reliable control options which minimise the escape and spread of substances hazardous to health

- e Where adequate control of exposure cannot be achieved by other means, provide, in combination with other control measures, suitable personal protective equipment
- f Check and review regularly all elements of control measures for their continuing effectiveness
- g Inform and train all employees on the hazards and risks from the substances with which they work and the use of control measures developed to minimise the risks
- h Ensure that the introduction of control measures does not increase the overall risk to health and safety

Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs)

are concentrations of hazardous substances in the air averaged over a specified period of time referred to as a time-weighted average. All substances hazardous to health are provided with a WEL and are listed in HSE document EH40/2005 'Workplace exposure limits'.

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV)

is commonly used to control the release of hazardous airborne substances from a process in the working environment and prevent them from entering the air of the workplace.

All LEV plant

shall be subjected to a thorough examination and test to ensure that it performs as originally intended and that it continues to adequately control the exposure of employees to substances hazardous to health.

It is estimated that nearly half of all LEV plant within the UK is not being examined and tested as the law requires.

Allianz Engineering carry out initial and periodic examination and testing of LEV plant.

For more information contact our Engineering Standards Department on 01428 726256.