



III SIMPOSIO DE HIGIENE INDUSTRIAL

Santander, 28 y 29 de octubre de 2024



HIGIENE INDUSTRIAL PRÁCTICA

Gestión de agentes químicos en el sector de construcción: experiencias en el Reino Unido.

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- The Project



- The Project



• The Scope



- The Challenges – Welding fumes



- **The Challenges – Respirable Crystalline Silica**



- The Challenges – Size, logistics and accessibility



- The solutions – Benchmark exposure values
- Benchmark values of 5 mg/m³ for inhalable dust and 1 mg/m³ for respirable dust were adopted in the project

IOM scientists advocate tighter standards for airborne dust at work

Scientists at the IOM have highlighted that the current British occupational exposure limits (OELs) for airborne dust are unsafe and employers should attempt to reduce exposures below these limits to help prevent further cases of respiratory disease amongst their workers.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have identified that exposure to dust can cause chronic lung disease (COPD) and that...

- Around 15% of COPD may be caused or made worse by work
- 4,000 COPD deaths every year may be related to work exposures
- 40% of COPD patients are below retirement age
- A quarter of those with COPD who are below retirement age are unable to work

In advising our clients we will recommend that until safe limits are put in place employers should aim to keep exposure to respirable dust below 1 mg/m³ and inhalable dust below 5 mg/m³.

The IOM's position paper on occupational exposure limits for dust can be accessed [here](#).

The pertinent scientific paper is: Cherrie, J., Brosseau, L.M., Hay, A., Donaldson, K., 2013. [A Commentary for the Annals of Occupational Hygiene: Low-Toxicity Dusts: Current Exposure Guidelines Are Not Sufficiently Protective](#). Ann Occup Hyg.



May 2021

Information for BOHS members on application of COSHH to dusts not assigned Workplace Exposure Limits or hazard classifications and also on application of the principles of good control practice

Purpose

The following information is made available to BOHS members in order that they make appropriately informed decisions when involved with assessments relating to low toxicity dusts and/or when exposures are below the Workplace Exposure Limit/trigger value.

Dusts without WELs

The absence of a WEL for a substance does not indicate that it is safe.¹

Regulation 2 of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 (as amended)² includes a definition of the substances hazardous to health which are covered by the regulations. In addition to substances such as those with Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) or hazard classifications, the definition includes a more general description:

- The solutions – Welding fumes, LEV



- The solutions – Welding fumes, Capture hoods



- The solutions – Metal cutting & Grinding, Enclosed Workstations



- The solutions – Respirable Crystalline Silica



- The solutions – Monitoring

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- The solutions – Monitoring

