BREATHE FREELY

Controlling exposures to prevent occupational lung disease in MANUFACTURING

Breathe Freely - helping you take control

Occupational hygiene is about recognising, evaluating and controlling risks to health in the workplace. Occupational hygienists have the knowledge and skills to help you protect your employees.

Join us and be part of the solution

Sign up as a supporter now at www.breathefreely.org.uk

Then begin to breathe freely.

99% health

Approx 12,800 died from work related disease

1% safety

1,446 workers died in accidents at work

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Treat health like safety and breathe freely

Every year in the UK, about 13,000 people die from diseases which were caused by the work that they did, or used to do. In 2015/16, in comparison, a total of 134,600 people died from accidents at work. In other words, 99% of deaths caused by work can be attributed to health, and 1% to poor safety.

That's where our Breathe Freely campaign comes in.

Breathe Freely

Breathe Freely for the manufacturing sector is a campaign launching across the UK which highlights the dangers from welding. The campaign is delivered through the manufacturing organisation, TRA, TUC, ACAS, Toxics and BIS Systems.

The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness amongst employers of the significant occupational hygiene protection requirements for workers in the manufacturing industry, focusing in particular on respiratory, and on welding.

Breathe Freely

Campaign to prevent occupent lung disease in manufacturing

The process of welding generates fumes, gases and dusts which, if inhaled, can cause serious health conditions. In fact, welding is one of the top causes of work-related cancer, occurring in a wide variety of industries and settings. It is estimated that the welding industry suffers from approximately 1500 workers each year as a result of welding lung disease.

The main health hazard with many welding operations - particularly MIG and TIG welding - is the welding fume. This consists of very fine particles of melted metal, mainly iron oxide, and is a potential respiratory hazard (albeit with lower toxicity than many other occupational hygiene practices)

In welding operations, emissions are always being produced as fumes and gases because of the nature of the work, and all those in control are exposed to welding fumes as part of their job. The controls provided are not being used properly.

Make sure you’re getting the right stuff - use our measures to check that you have the right controls in place to protect your people.

In BOHS, we understand the scale of the impact of occupational lung disease in manufacture, but are also keen to highlight its importance in the wider manufacturing industry. We believe that everyone - from the Welding Society to the HR managers - needs to be aware of the growing scale of the health risks associated with welding.

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