

# 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.
- HSE priced and free publications are available from HSE Books  
Tel: 01787 881165 Website: [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk).
- HSE free leaflets can be downloaded from HSE's website:  
[www.hse.gov.uk/pubns](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns).
- For information about health and safety ring HSE's Infoline Tel: 0845 345 0055 Textphone: 0845 408 9577 e-mail: [hse.infoline@natbrit.com](mailto:hse.infoline@natbrit.com).
- Contact the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) on 01332 298101 or at [www.bohs.org](http://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](http://www.nhsplus.nhs.uk).
- For environmental guidelines see sheet WLO

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory and you are free to take other action. But if you do follow the guidance you will normally be doing enough to comply with the law. Health and safety inspectors seek to secure compliance with the law and may refer to this guidance as illustrating good practice.