

BPIF

OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE

CAN YOU AFFORD
TO TAKE THE RISK?



ARE YOU COMPLIANT WITH OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE REGULATIONS?

As an employer you have a duty of care to ensure the health and safety of personnel within your premises. According to the latest Health and Safety Executive (HSE) statistics over 13,000 enforcement notices were issued to companies in breach of legislation of which 30% resulted in immediate factory closure until rectified.

Did you know that in 2014:

- Workplace illness cost the UK economy a staggering £6 billion in lost productivity and healthcare
- There were 1,268 new cases of skin diseases of which 920 were suffering from contact dermatitis
- There were 4,000 lung injuries of which 177 were asbestos related

As a nation we are highly aware of the dangers associated with excessive exposure to hazards in the workplace and all responsible employers recognise that anything less than a safe and healthy working environment is unacceptable.

To help members, the BPIF have developed a flexible range of Occupational Hygiene services aimed at providing a safe and secure environment whilst at the same time ensuring legal compliance.

The BPIF are offering a **free health check** to members from which a bespoke management package can be developed, relative to your needs. This specific management package could generate significant savings of 30-50% in comparison to undertaking individual occupational hygiene services elsewhere.

MYTH: *'I don't work with harmful substances.'*

REALITY: Most businesses use substances that can be hazardous to health – even water can be a hazard.

BPIF OCCUPATIONAL HYGIENE SERVICES AVAILABLE

COSHH

- COSHH Risk Assessment
- Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) Testing
- Workplace Air Monitoring
- Legionella Risk Assessment & Ongoing Management
- Respiratory Protection Equipment (RPE) Face Fit Testing

Acoustics

- Workplace Noise Monitoring
- Environmental Noise Monitoring
- Hand/Arm Vibration Assessment
- Whole Body Vibration Assessment

Additional Extras

- Stack Emissions Assessment
- Asbestos Assessment
- Ergonomics Assessment
- Lighting Assessment
- Heat Stress Assessment

COSHH RISK ASSESSMENT

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 (as amended) state that every employer shall ensure that the exposure of employees to substances hazardous to health is either prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled.

Regulation 6 of the COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended) states that a suitable and sufficient assessment of risk must be undertaken when working with chemicals. All routes of exposure must be identified which may include inhalation, ingestion, absorption and injection.

A BPIF COSHH Risk Assessment will:

- Identify potentially hazardous substances
- Identify who is at risk of harm and how
- Evaluate risks and identify appropriate precautions

Access to the following is required:

- All Safety Data Sheets relevant to the substances used for each process (these should be a maximum of 5 years old)
- Operating procedures/an understanding of each relevant task carried out during the process
- Information regarding the current control measures adopted. This relates to engineering controls and the types of personal protection equipment (PPE) used
- Information on employee concerns and/or instances of adverse health issues
- Results of any previous monitoring

LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION (LEV) TESTING

Thousands of British workers contract occupational asthma and other lung diseases each year due to breathing in dust, fumes or other airborne contaminants at work, often because control measures are not fit for purpose or utilised properly by employees.

LEV control systems aim to remove air pollutants before they enter the workplace, ensuring employee exposure is at a level that is considered as low as is reasonably practicable. It is an employers' responsibility to ensure the thorough testing and examination of LEV systems according to Regulation 9 of the COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended) and is a legal requirement to be undertaken every 14 months.

A BPIF Occupational Hygiene Specialist will carry out a thorough examination and test of your LEV equipment consisting of 3 stages:

Stage 1

A visual inspection to verify the LEV is in efficient working order, in good repair and in a clean condition.

Stage 2

A thorough examination and test of technical performance to check conformity with commissioning and the main requirements of the HSE Guidance Document: *Controlling Airborne Contaminants at Work Guide (HSG258)*.

Stage 3

Assessment to ensure the system is fit for purpose and providing the necessary control.

WORKPLACE AIR MONITORING

Under Regulation 10 of the COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended) employers must ensure that workplace air monitoring is undertaken to ensure adequate control. Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) for airborne contaminants are listed in the HSE Guidance Document EH40.

Your employees may be exposed to airborne substances on a regular basis that are potentially hazardous to health. Many substances within the printing industry can cause ill health effects including:

- Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)
- Isocyanates
- Total inhalable dusts
- Respirable dusts
- Ozone

A BPIF Workplace Air Monitoring Assessment includes:

- An accurate identification and calculation of airborne concentrations of hazardous substances in the workplace
- A direct comparison of personal exposure concentrations against current workplace exposure levels (WELs)
- Background concentrations to assess the effectiveness of engineering controls (such as LEV)
- Realistic recommendations for improvements to ensure a reduction of exposure

LEGIONELLA RISK ASSESSMENT & ONGOING MANAGEMENT

Under COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended) and HSE Approved Code of Practice and Guidance Document: *Legionnaires' disease: The control of legionella bacteria in water systems*, employers have a duty to take suitable precautions to prevent or control the risk of exposure to legionella.

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia caused by legionella bacteria which can contaminate and grow in purpose-built water systems such as cooling towers, evaporative condensers and hot and cold water systems.

Employers must:

- Identify and assess sources of risk
- Prepare a written scheme for preventing or controlling the risk
- Implement, manage and monitor precautions
- Keep records of the precautions
- Appoint a competent person with sufficient knowledge of the installation to maintain required standards to comply with the law

A BPIF Legionella Risk Assessment includes:

- A visual inspection of water systems
- The measurement of water temperatures
- An evaluation of legionella control
- The production of appropriate schematic diagrams to show the water system layout

All the necessary areas will be addressed to ensure compliance with the code of practice including recommendations for future control measures and management of the risks.

RESPIRATORY PROTECTION EQUIPMENT (RPE) FACE FIT TESTING

In situations whereby adequate control of exposure to airborne substances cannot be achieved in line with Approved Codes of Practice (ACoPs) supporting the COSHH Regulations 2002 (as amended), the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 2002 (CLAW), Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 (CAR) and Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999 employers must provide suitable respiratory protection equipment.

The RPE provided must reduce the exposure to a concentration that is as low as reasonably practicable, and in any case below any applicable exposure or control limits.

The ACoPs supporting the Regulations recommend that the initial selection of tight-fitting face pieces should include a fit test. This is to ensure that the selected RPE has the potential to provide adequate protection for the wearer.

A BPIF RPE Face Fit Test involves:

- 7 exercises in accordance with HSE guidelines which aim to take typical body movements and tasks into consideration and takes around 30 minutes to complete
- Each employee is given a pass or fail result
- In the event of a failed fit test, a second test using a different model and/or size of RPE will be discussed with the member

NOISE MONITORING

It is an employers' responsibility to ensure compliance with The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, and also to comply with environmental guidelines for external noise pollution.

Within the workplace employers must:

- Ensure that risk from exposure to noise is either eliminated at source or reduced to as low a level as possible
- Make personal hearing protection available to employees who are exposed to noise at HSE defined exposure limits and maintain its efficient working order
- Place employees who are at risk under suitable health surveillance including hearing testing

A BPIF Workplace Noise Survey will:

- Identify whether employees are exposed to noise at or above the exposure limit and action values and/or peak sound pressure levels
- Identify areas and/or machines which give rise to noise levels at or above the exposure limit values and/or peak sound pressure levels

A BPIF Environmental Noise Survey will assess requirements in line with:

- Planning permission
- Environmental permit and/or BS4142: 2014
- Environmental Protection Act 1990
- World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines for Community Noise, BS8233: 1999
- Complaints raised by local residents

A BPIF specialist and Institute of Acoustics trained consultant will evaluate your requirements and provide advice and support to walk you through the entire process.

VIBRATION

The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 aim to prevent damage caused by vibration at work. Vibration induced medical conditions can include vascular disorders and long-term neurological and muscular damage.

The regulations state that:

- Employers shall ensure that risk from exposure to vibration is either eliminated at source or reduced to as low a level as possible
- Employers shall ensure that employees exposed to vibration are placed under suitable health surveillance
- Employers shall provide employees and their representatives with suitable and sufficient information, instruction and training

Any employee that utilises hand held vibrating equipment (such as grinders and drills) may be exposed to unnecessary levels of hand/arm vibration. Employees that drive an on-site vehicle (such as a forklift truck) may be exposed to excess levels of whole body vibration.

BPIF Vibration Assessments are available for hand/arm and whole body and will:

- Identify whether employees are exposed to vibration at or above the daily exposure limit and action values
- Establish vibration levels for the tools/vehicles currently in use
- Provide information on health surveillance

GETTING STARTED

Contact Phil Pateman, BPIF Consultancy Services Director, to register your interest. A BPIF Occupational Hygiene Consultant will then contact you to discuss your needs.

A contract of engagement detailing services and costs* will be submitted to you for approval. Once signed and returned with your initial payment in place your BPIF Occupational Hygiene Package will commence.

*All costs quoted are exclusive of VAT

Further information on the following additional services are available upon request:

- Stack Emissions Assessment
- Asbestos Assessment
- Ergonomics Assessment
- Lighting Assessment
- Heat Stress Assessment

TO GET STARTED PLEASE CONTACT

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