AIRBORNE WORKPLACE HAZARDS: CHROMIC ACID MIST

DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR CONTROL MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE ENOUGH?

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) systems can be expensive but do they fully protect your staff from the health risks of Chromic Acid Mist and if so to what extent?

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 require you to reduce the levels of exposure to hazardous substances as far as is reasonably practicable below the specified Workplace Exposure Limits

The use of air sampling equipment to monitor the exposure of staff to these airborne hazards ensures that you:

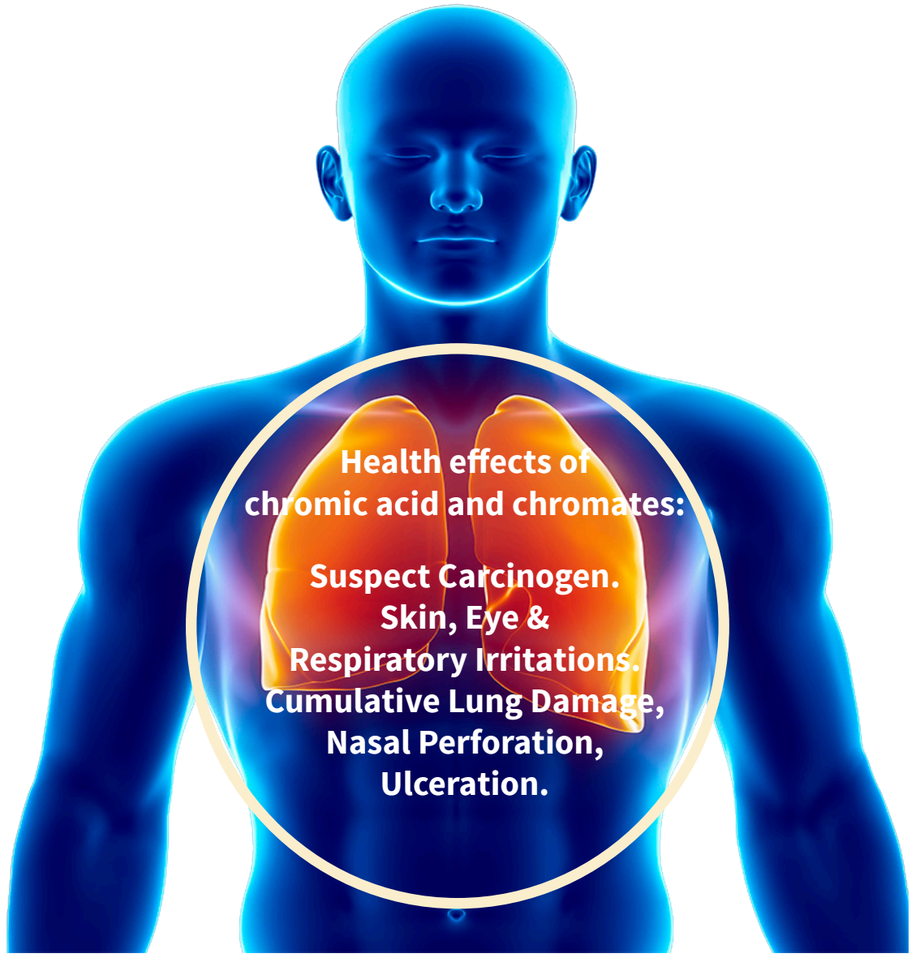
- Have a permanent record for evidence that you have undertaken the monitoring of your staff's exposure to hazardous substances.
- Make informed choices on controls to be implemented where changes are required.
- Demonstrate that you know how important it is to protect the health of your staff.

Without measuring personal exposure to Chromic Acid Mist you will never know what actual levels of these hazards you are exposing your staff to, relative to MDHS 52/4.

LEGISLATION

The maximum workplace exposure limits (WELs) as published in the HSE publication EH40:2005 are:

- Chromium VI compounds, 0.05 mg/m³ in 8 hour TWA
- Nickel Soluble Compounds, 0.1mg/m³ in 8 hour TWA
- Cadmium Compounds, 0.025mg/m³ in 8 hour TWA



KEY AIRBORNE HAZARDS FOR THE METAL INDUSTRY

Soluble hexavalent chromium compounds, and in particular chromic acid (chromium trioxide), are commonly used as electrolytes in electroplating and anodising. In these processes the bursting of small bubbles of gases generated by electrolysis causes the formation of mists (fine droplets of electrolyte). These are commonly referred to as chromium plating mists and can be inhaled in the workplace.

SO HOW CAN SKC HELP?

At SKC we have over 50 years experience in the design, manufacture and supply of air sampling equipment. We offer practical training in basic air sampling techniques, ideally suited to beginners, and our technical support team are always on hand to help. If you would like further information or guidance on monitoring your staff's exposure to airborne hazards please contact us.

SKC

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