

AIRBORNE WORKPLACE HAZARDS: WOOD DUST

DO YOU KNOW IF YOUR CONTROL MEASURES ARE EFFECTIVE ENOUGH?

Lots of money is spent on Extraction Systems but does it fully protect your staff from the respiratory health risks of wood dust and formaldehyde and if so to what extent? How do you measure to see if RPE is actually needed?



Without measuring personal exposure to wood dust or formaldehyde you will never know what actual levels of these hazards you are exposing your staff to, relative to the HSE exposure limits.

Use air sampling equipment to monitor the exposure of staff of these airborne hazards to ensure 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.

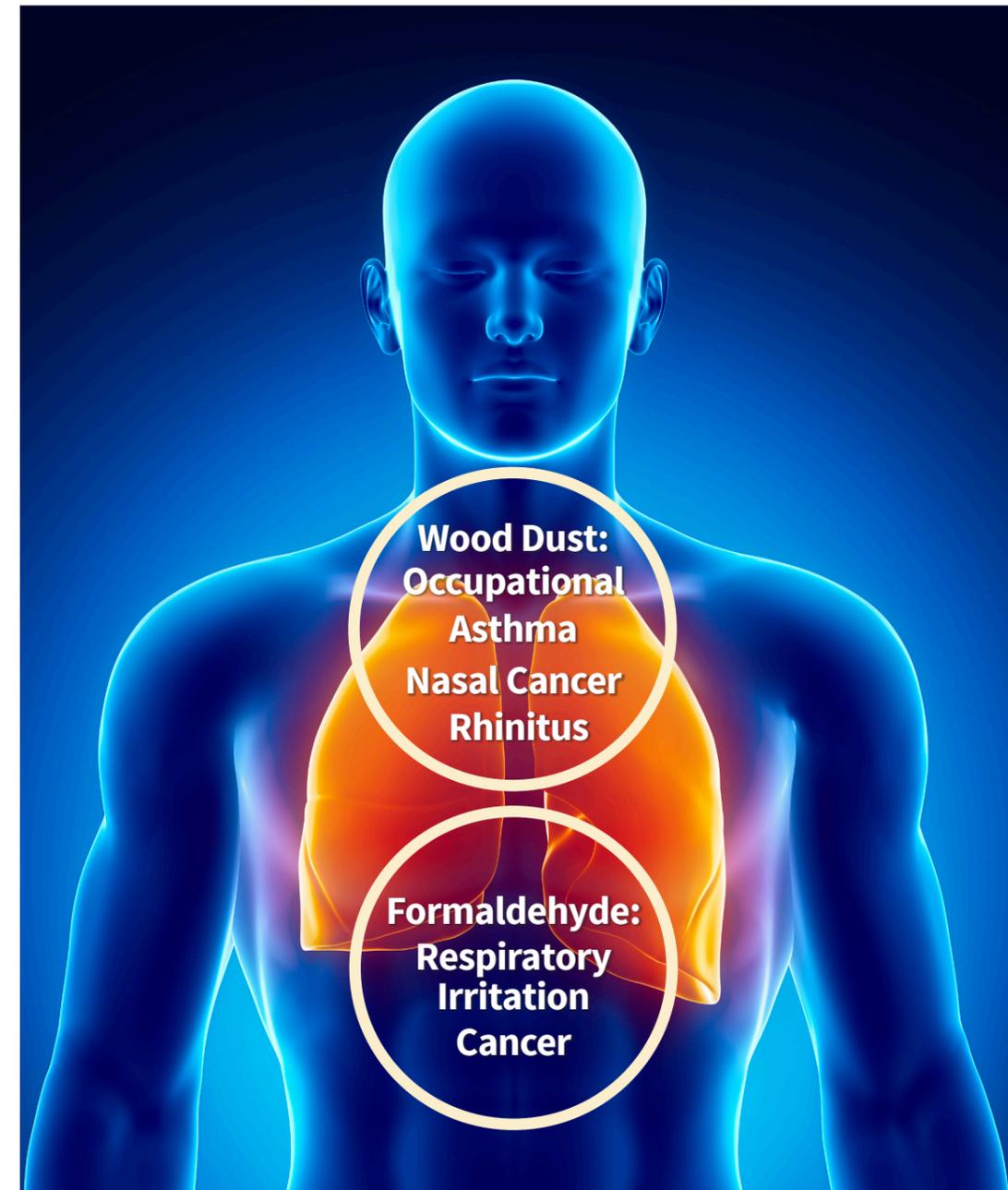


Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 requires you to reduce the levels of exposure to hazardous substances as far as is reasonably practical below the specified Workplace Exposure Limits.

LEGISLATION

The HSE Workplace Exposure Limits (WELs) in the HSE publication EH40:2005 relating to reducing the level of exposure to wood dust and formaldehyde are:

- Hardwood Dust 3mg/m³ in 8 hours (inhalable)
- Softwood Dust 5mg/m³ in 8 hours (inhalable)
- Formaldehyde 2ppm in 8 hrs and 2ppm in 15 mins
- Hardwood Dust/Softwood Dust 3mg/m³ in 8 hours (inhalable)



KEY AIRBORNE HAZARDS FOR THE WOOD INDUSTRY

Wood dust generated from static and hand held machinery in saw mills, workshops and wood processing areas. Formaldehyde in the resins used to make MDF that can be released as vapour.

SO HOW CAN SKC HELP?

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

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