







# Visiting premises spraying isocyanate-based paints









A checklist for HSE staff



Questions you need to ask		Yes	No	Comments
<p>Are the sprayers aware that they use isocyanate-based paints?</p> <p>(Note alternative terms such as 2-pack, 2K, aliphatic polyisocyanate, blocked isocyanate, polyurethane, etc)</p>				
<p>Do they know that isocyanates can cause severe occupational asthma and what the warning signs and symptoms are?</p> <p>(See footnote*)</p>				
<p>Is spraying isocyanate-based paints limited to an extracted room or spray booth?</p>				
<p>Has the booth or room extraction system been thoroughly examined and tested in the last 14 months?</p> <p>(Check paperwork)</p>				
<p>Does the booth/room have a pressure gauge to show it is under negative pressure?</p>				
<p>Is the paint mist filtered and discharged safely outside?</p> <p>Are filters blocked or missing?</p>				

## \*Signs and symptoms

- Recurring soreness or watering of eyes
- Recurring blocked or running nose
- Bouts of coughing
- Chest tightness, wheezing or breathlessness
- Any other persistent history of chest problems
- Symptoms improve at weekends or during holidays

Questions you need to ask		Yes	No	Comments
Is the clearance time of the booth or room known and on display?				
Is airline breathing apparatus (BA) always used whenever spraying NCO-based paints?	 			
Is the BA maintained adequately? (Have a look at it)				
Is gun cleaning carried out using extracted or enclosed gun-washing equipment in open workshop (or in booth/ventilated mixing room with normal controls and BA)				
Are the sprayers having annual health checks for breathing (lung function and questionnaire)?				
Has a 'responsible person' been appointed to carry out skin checks?				
Is the isocyanate exposure of the sprayers measured annually using urine tests?				

**Notes:**

- Use SHAD posters as prompts during your visits.
- Draw bodyshop manager's/owner's attention to the new HSE-BCF poster at <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/isocyanatesa4.pdf>