

# FD13

## COSHH essentials for foundries



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 to dusts or sludges and protect workers' health.

It is also useful for trade union safety representatives.

This sheet describes good practice using RPE.

It covers the points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level.

It is important to follow all the points, or use equally effective measures.

Baghouse and scrubber residues can contain silica, metal dusts and oxides, condensed fumes, oils and low-activity radioactive dust. These are all hazardous to health.

### Main points

- Use permit-to-work procedures.
- Keep exposures as low as possible, using all the controls in this sheet.
- Make sure the controls work.

# Cleaning dust collectors

## Control approach R

### Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

#### Access and premises

- ✓ Provide good facilities - showers, washrooms, clothes storage and refreshment areas. Clean these areas every day.
- ✓ Permit access to the cleaning operation to essential staff only.
- ✓ Lock off the extraction equipment. Place warning signs until cleaning has finished.
- ✓ Nominate a trained person to act as lookout, posted outside the collector.

#### Procedures

- ✓ Find out all the dangers your baghouse and/or scrubber residues present. Seek expert advice.
- ✓ Prepare a written method statement, specifying:
  - the work method and precautions; and
  - the personal protective equipment to use.
- ✓ Ensure that users check their RPE works properly every time they use it.

#### Special care

- ✓ Some dry dusts can self-ignite.
- ✓ Some dusts can absorb oxygen, or can emit poisonous gases when wet.

#### Maintenance, examination and testing

- ✓ Review records to see if there are failure patterns that make planning maintenance easier.
- ✓ Visually check compressed airlines for signs of damage before use.
- ✓ Keep airline oil and water traps empty, and filters clean.
- ✓ Examine and test RPE thoroughly at least once every three months.
- ✓ Check the airflow and air quality to air-fed RPE.
- ✓ Keep records of these tests.

#### Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- ✓ Ask your supplier to help you select the right PPE.

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### Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

- ✓ Select RPE that suits the wearer, the job and the work environment.
- ✓ Air-fed RPE with an assigned protection factor (APF) of at least 40 is normally needed. If there is a risk of a confined space or toxic fumes, you must select air-fed RPE. See sheets R4 and R5.
- ✓ Make sure all RPE is properly fit-tested - get advice from your supplier.
- ✓ Keep RPE clean and store it away from dust.
- ✓ At the end of the job, the RPE should be the last item of PPE taken off.

### Other protective equipment

- ✓ Provide disposable hooded coveralls, chemical protective gloves and protective footwear.
- ✓ Use a contract laundry, or a suitable equivalent to wash work clothing.
- ✓ Throw away protective gloves at the end of the shift - they will be contaminated inside.
- ✓ Skin creams are important for skin condition. They also help in washing contamination from the skin. After work creams help to replace skin oils.

**Caution: 'Barrier creams' do not create a full barrier.**

### Health monitoring

- ✓ Consider health monitoring for lung function and health surveillance for dermatitis. See sheets G401 and G403.
- ✓ Consult an occupational health professional. See 'Useful links'.

### Cleaning and housekeeping

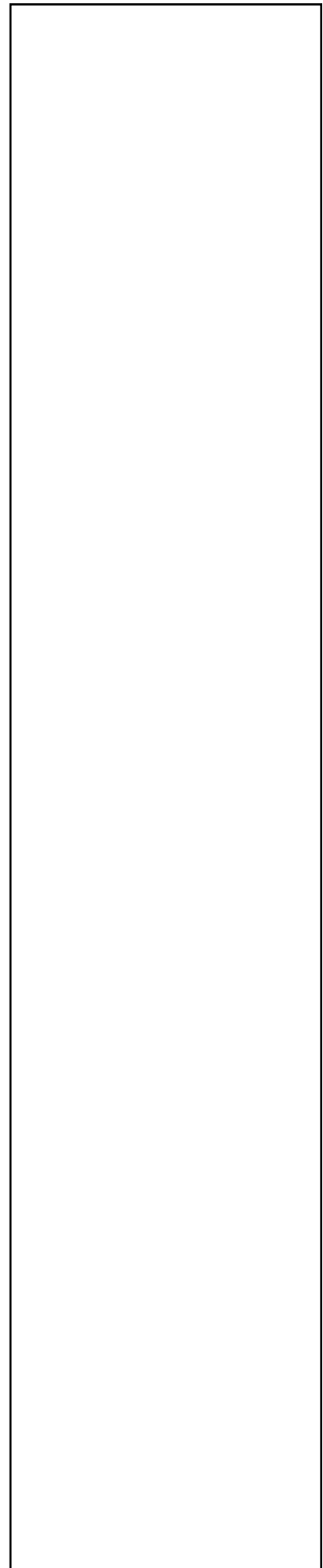
- ✓ Ensure workers shower and change after a work session.
- Caution: Never allow use of compressed air for removing dust from clothing.**

### Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell your workers what the health hazards are.
- ✓ Working in the right way and using the controls correctly is important for exposure control. Train and supervise workers. See sheet FDO.

### Further information

- *Respiratory protective equipment at work: A practical guide* HSG53 (Third edition) HSE Books 2005 ISBN 0 7176 2904 X
- *Preventing asthma at work. How to control respiratory sensitisers* L55 HSE Books 1994 ISBN 0 7176 0661 9
- *Assessing and managing risks at work from skin exposure to chemical agents: Guidance for employers and health and safety specialists* HSG205 HSE Books 2001 ISBN 0 7176 1826 9
- *Permit-to-work systems* Leaflet INDG98(rev3) HSE Books 1997 (single copy free or priced packs of 15 ISBN 0 7176 1331 3)
- For environmental guidelines see sheet FDO



### Useful links

- 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).

### Employee checklist

- Follow the method of work strictly. Is the equipment locked off before starting cleaning? Is a lookout posted outside?
- Check that your RPE works properly every time you put it on.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Co-operate with health monitoring.
- Use, maintain and store your PPE in accordance with instructions.
- Throw away gloves at the end of the job.
- Wash your hands at each break.
- Never use solvents to clean your skin.
- Use skin creams provided as instructed.

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.