

Mr Sample
112 Any Street
Any Town
Any Place
SW1B 3AL

*HSE Infoline tel: 0845 345 0055
www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking*

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Keep your extraction system working properly – it's time to clear the air!

Dear Mr Sample,

Are you sure that your extraction system is working properly? Would you know if it wasn't?

If you're in any doubt at all, it makes sense to check your extraction (sometimes known as local exhaust ventilation or LEV) today. To help you, we've enclosed a leaflet which tells you how often you need to check it and what to look out for.

Your health depends on your extraction system

People who are involved in woodworking and sawmilling can be exposed to high levels of dust. Your extraction plays a vital role in protecting you and your staff. If it's not doing its job, you could all be at risk of serious health problems such as asthma and cancer.

Your legal obligations

By law all extraction systems must be tested by a competent person at least once every fourteen months. In between these thorough examinations and tests, you should make sure that your system is regularly checked and maintained. You can find more details on how to do this in the leaflet.

Getting everyone involved

Your staff can also help you keep the air clear at work. Right now the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is working with others to emphasise the need to keep extraction working properly. To support this, we've enclosed a poster and stickers for you to display as a daily reminder of how to check that your extraction is working. We have also included a tear-off checklist.

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We're here to help

To find out more about how to protect your health at work, just log onto our website at www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking. You'll find lots of information about choosing and maintaining an extraction system and be able to order or download leaflets which deal with extraction in more detail.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Small
HM Principal Inspector of Health and Safety
Head of Operational Policy for Woodworking

