

SR15

COSHH Essentials for
service and retail

Exhaust fumes from moving vehicles

Control approach 1 General ventilation

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) require employers to ensure that exposure is prevented or, where this is not reasonably practicable, adequately controlled. This guidance gives practical advice on how this can be achieved by applying the principles of good practice for the control of exposure to substances hazardous to health, as required by COSHH.

It is aimed at people whose responsibilities include the management of substances hazardous to health at work (eg occupational health specialists, anyone undertaking COSHH assessments, and supervisors). It is also useful for trade union and employee safety representatives. It will help you carry out COSHH assessments, review existing assessments, deliver training, and supervise activities involving substances hazardous to health.

This guidance is issued by the Health and Safety Executive. Following the guidance is not compulsory, unless specifically stated, 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.

See Essential information near the end of the sheet.

What this sheet covers

This sheet describes good practice for the control of exposure to exhaust fumes from moving vehicles for workers in toll booths, ferries, bus stations, underground car parks etc.

It covers the key points you need to follow to reduce exposure to an adequate level. This is achieved by following good control practice, ie follow all the points described in this sheet or use equally effective measures.

Hazards

- ✓ Vehicle exhaust fumes irritate the eyes and respiratory tract.
- ✓ Diesel exhaust fumes increase the risk of serious lung diseases, including cancer.
- ✓ Petrol or liquefied petroleum (LP) gas fuelled engines can produce carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas which can cause death.
- ✓ Motor vehicle exhaust emissions can reach high levels in enclosed and congested places – typical places include toll booths, ro-ro ferries, bus stations and underground car parks.

Caution: In the unlikely event of a requirement to carry out work in a confined space, refer to the specific guidance in HSE publication L101 *Safe work in confined spaces*.

Access to work area

- ✓ Only allow access to authorised and appropriately trained people.

Equipment and procedures

- ✓ Provide a good standard of general ventilation. This can be natural ventilation from doors, windows etc. or controlled, where air is supplied and/or removed by powered fans.
- ✓ Ensure that supplied or make-up air comes from an uncontaminated area.
- ✓ Consider providing carbon monoxide monitors linked to a visual and/or audible alarm.
- ✓ Provide signage advising drivers to turn off their engines if the queue out of the car park stops moving.

Respiratory protective equipment (RPE)

- ✓ RPE is not normally needed when a good standard of general ventilation is provided.

Caution: In the unlikely event of a requirement to carry out work in a confined space, refer to the specific guidance in HSE publication L101 *Safe work in confined spaces*, and seek expert advice.

Maintenance, examination and testing

- ✓ If carbon monoxide alarms are provided, then test them at regular intervals in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- ✓ Keep all equipment used for the provision of effective general ventilation in effective working order. Maintain it as advised by the manufacturer, supplier or installer.
- ✓ Follow instructions in maintenance manuals.
- ✓ If the equipment is faulty, get it repaired immediately.

Cleaning and housekeeping

- ✓ Provide good clean welfare facilities.

Training and supervision

- ✓ Tell workers about the hazards associated with their work and how to recognise early signs of asthma and dermatitis.
- ✓ Provide workers with training on:
 - when and how to use controls;
 - how to check they are working;
 - what to do if something goes wrong.
- ✓ Provide supervision – ensure that safe work procedures are followed.
- ✓ Involve managers and supervisors in health and safety training.

Essential information

G100 – General ventilation

S102 – Selecting personal protective equipment

G402 – Health surveillance for occupational asthma

Further information

Control of substances hazardous to health: The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. Approved Code of Practice and guidance L5 (sixth edition) HSE 2013. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l5.htm>

Control of diesel engine exhaust emissions in the workplace HSG187, HSE Books 2012, ISBN 978 0 7176 6541 9.

Diesel Engine Exhaust Emissions INDG 286, HSE Books 2012, ISBN 978 0 7176 1671 8.

Safe work in confined spaces. Confined Spaces Regulations 1997. Approved Code of Practice, Regulations and guidance L101, HSE Books 2014. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/l101.htm>

Occupational Safety and Health Consultants Register www.oshcr.org/

You can find the full COSHH Essentials series at www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/index.html

For information about health and safety, visit <https://books.hse.gov.uk> or <http://www.hse.gov.uk>

You can view HSE guidance online and order priced publications from the website. HSE priced publications are also available from bookshops.

To report inconsistencies or inaccuracies in this guidance, email: commissioning@tso.co.uk

Employee checklist

- Do you understand the health hazards associated with your work?
- Are you sure about safe working procedures?
- Do you know how to use the controls?
- Check for signs of blue or black smoke from a diesel engine, or unusual or acrid smells from an LP gas fuelled engine.
- If you find any problems, tell your supervisor. Don't just carry on working.
- Report any cases of ill health (eg breathing problems or coughing) that may be associated with exhaust fumes to your supervisor. Early intervention means it will be less likely that you develop permanent symptoms.
- Wash hands before eating and drinking, after smoking and using the lavatory, and after work.