

Preparing for your HSE fabricated metal inspection

Our inspectors are visiting fabricated metal businesses to ensure they are protecting workers' health. The links below provide further details and guidance so you can ensure your workplace has effective measures in place.

Machining using metalworking fluids (MWF) creates mist that is hazardous to health

An inspection will concentrate on the measures in place to control exposure to water-mix metalworking fluids. You should consider the following;



- Do you have Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) in place to remove mist during [CNC machining](#)?
- Is the LEV effective? Are you properly inspecting and maintaining your LEV system?
- Have you considered using alternatives to [compressed air](#) to clean away excess fluid and swarf?
- Where there is no practical alternative to compressed air, have you reduced the pressure and are you using it inside the CNC enclosure with LEV?
- Are you ensuring that [skin exposure](#) to MWFs is minimised?
- Do you have arrangements in place to check the [quality](#) of your MWFs?
- Are you undertaking dipslide tests? Are the bacteria levels consistently below 10^4 cfu/ml?
- Are your employees provided with adequate [information, instruction and training](#) to know the [health risks](#) from MWF and how to properly use the control measures?
- Have you put in place effective [management arrangements](#) for using MWFs? Including a COSHH assessment and [health surveillance](#).

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Welding creates fumes which are hazardous to health

An inspection will concentrate on the measures you have in place to control exposure to welding fume. You should consider the following;

- Do you use [Local Exhaust Ventilation](#) (LEV) when welding to remove the fume at source?
- Is the LEV effective? Does it appear to have removed all visible fume?
- Are you aware of the different types of LEV system available to you?
- Are you properly [inspecting and maintaining](#) your LEV system?
- Are you using suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) to control exposure when required? Have workers who wear tight-fitting RPE been [face fit tested](#)?
- Are your employees provided with adequate [information, instruction and training](#) to know the [health risks](#) from welding fume and how to properly use the control measures?
- Do you do any welding in [confined spaces](#)? If so, do you have [suitable arrangements](#) in place?
- Have you put in place effective [management arrangements](#) for controlling exposure to welding fume?