

LEV...Controls...New Guidance

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LEV ...COSHH

The start

- LEV is part of COSHH (UK)
- Old boring stuff
- In place since 1989
- Most companies have it sussed

.....*Or have they ?*

An example

Recent case of occupational asthma

Food manufacturer

Flour levels (of 4 – 36 mg/m³) were substantially below relevant limits particularly for respirable dust ‘

‘The amount of flour dust is minimal ‘

The outcome: At least one person damaged, company vulnerable to more claims and prosecution.

Is this an isolated case?

... sadly not !

- COSHH is not sussed or sorted in many Cos
- Still gross ignorance amongst those who should know better
- Lousy controls including LEV
- Still people at work at risk of ill health

COSHH

**The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations
1988**

SI 1988 No 1657

Came into force on 1st October 1989

...A quick Noddies Guide

COSHH - basic requirements

- An assessment of the risks
- Application of control measures
- Exposure monitoring – where requisite
- Health surveillance – where appropriate
- Information, instruction and training

....All are important but Controls especially so

Adequate Controls

- Design, Engineering, organisational
- Can include:
 - Local exhaust ventilation
 - Isolation – enclosure, distance, time, people
 - Method of work
 - General ventilation
 - Personal hygiene

Plus information, instruction, training, supervision, maintenance, pre-employment screening, health surveillance.

Controls

A KEY ISSUE !!

Do the controls work ...and how do you know?

LEV

New Guidance Briefing

HSE

New LEV Guidance

- Why New Guidance ?

LEV Guidance – Why

- 1000s of workers contract occupational disease each year
 - Occupational asthma 500-2500 per year
 - Pneumoconiosis hundreds per year
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) tens of thousands per year
 - Cancers ??
 - Other ??
- 175,000 self reported breathing or lung problems
2006/2007*

Why New Guidance

Disease unnecessary and caused by

- Poor control of dust, fume, gas etc
- In particular LEV

Why is LEV so poor?

Why is LEV so poor?

- Poor design
- Poor installation
- Lack of maintenance
- Not used properly
- Etc

Why the above?

Why is LEV so poor ?

Simple ignorance amongst

- Designers
- Suppliers
- Users
- Testers

And lack of interest by regulators ??

HSE undertook a project to address the problem

HSE's LEV Project aim:

“To bring about a significant, measurable improvement in the coverage and effectiveness of engineering exposure control, particularly LEV, in the UK”

To involve all stakeholders



Who are the key stakeholders?

- Buyers/owners
- Designers
- Installers
- Suppliers
- Examiners
- Maintainers
- Assessors (including HSE inspectors)
- Employees (ultimate users)



One of several problems:

Employers sold inappropriate and expensive LEV systems that don't work



The control problem in a nutshell (1 of 3)

The main problems are:

- Employers often don't appreciate the extent of exposure risk from their processes
- Employers and employees, are often over-optimistic about LEV capabilities
- LEV buying – There has been no guidance and employers are often misled and mis-sold

The control problem in a nutshell

(2 of 3)

- LEV design – often the LEV hood is not matched to the process and source(s) causing exposure
- LEV commissioning – this is rarely done thoroughly, often done mechanically and control effectiveness, matched to need, is usually missed out

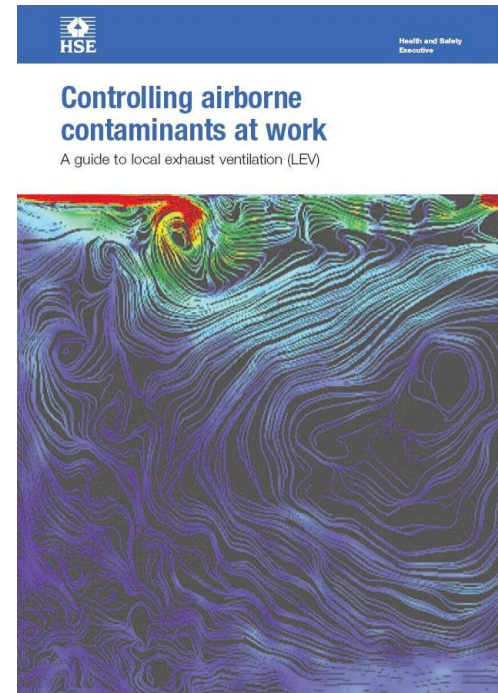
The control problem in a nutshell

(3 of 3)

- LEV checking and maintenance – suppliers provide little guidance and employers don't do it frequently or systematically enough
- LEV *thorough examination and test* – is often not done and when it is it is often incomplete and uncritical (it's not "*thorough*")

New LEV guidance for suppliers and others

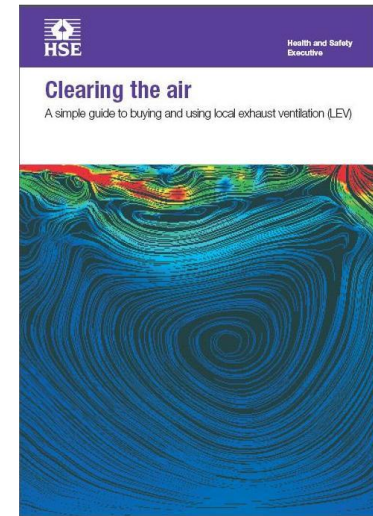
- HSG 258 “Controlling airborne contaminants at work: A guide to local exhaust ventilation ”
Priced Publication (£12.50).
(replaces HSGs 37 and 54)



New LEV guidance for employers and employees

- INDG 408 “Clearing the air: A simple guide to buying and using local exhaust ventilation” Leaflet available on:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/lev/index.htm>



- INDG 409 “Time to clear the air! A pocket guide to local exhaust ventilation (LEV)” Leaflet available on:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/lev/index.htm>



HSG 258 Guidance Contains...

- Properties of airborne contaminants
- Sources
- Preparing specifications
- Hood design
- ‘Rest of the system’ design
- Installation and commissioning
- Examination and testing

What has been done with the guidance?

- Promotion of key messages
- Development of training tools

Has led groups to act

Plus...

- Training of 400 Inspectors

LEV Guidance -Repercussions

Employers need to review position with respect to:

- Existing LEV systems
 - Effective or not
 - Simple remedy or major redesign needed
 - Maintenance regime and records
 - Do they comply with old and new guidance?
- New systems
 - Competent Design (get it right first time!)
 - Spec, user manual, log book
 - Commissioning
 - Maintenance schedule
- Competence (own staff, contractors)
- Training

LEV Guidance -Repercussions

Employers need to review position with respect to.....

But are they ?

Is the message getting through ?

A very recent experience

Following a survey which showed high levels of dust the company engaged an LEV specialist to install LEV

It was poor ...

- guidance available for > 2 years was
- still ignored by suppliers
- and by engineering directors in large cos
- and workers left at risk

Summary - COSHH

The myth: '***COSHH and LEV controls are old hat and most Cos. have it sussed*** '

The reality: ***no they haven't!***

- Many 'COSHH assessments' are rubbish
- Many controls do not work
- People are still suffering ill health
- HSE have provided guidance
- But it is up to committed professionals to spread the message

LEV / COSHH / CONTROLS

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