



WE PROVIDE A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SERVICES TO ASSIST OUR CLIENTS THAT INCLUDE:

- EHS Risk Assessments
- Occupational Hygiene Surveys
- Ergonomics Surveys
- EHS Management
- System development and implementation
- Environmental Monitoring
- Identification of EHS Legal Requirements and Compliance Audits
- Construction EHS Services
- Construction H&S Files
- Internal Auditor Training
- General EHS Training



HW592A1000508



OH0049



DoL Approved Inspection Authority (OH0049-CI-09)

Newsletter compiled by
Lee Rands

OHS DIRECTIVE: ASBESTOS REGULATIONS (2002)

The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) has issued an OHS Directive on 17th July 2019 regarding the withdrawal of the 25 November 2009 Memo (Department of Employment and Labour explanatory notes on the interpretation of the definition of demolition work).



Until the newly reviewed Asbestos Regulations are promulgated by the Minister, the following measures should be implemented in the asbestos sector when asbestos and asbestos containing materials are handled:

- Where asbestos insulation materials (i.e. insulation ropes) are removed for disposal, the services of a Registered Asbestos Contractor (RAC) must be used. The RAC shall comply to points as indicated under section 5 of the OHS Directive.
- The removal of asbestos insulation material shall only be conducted by a Registered Asbestos Contractor (RAC). Where asbestos containing **cement products** (i.e. roof sheets, wall partitions) are removed intact (without any breakage) the services of a Registered Asbestos Contractor is **not** needed. An Employer undertaking this removal **shall still comply** to the points as indicated under Section 4 of the new OHS Directive. **In summary, Section 4 includes requirements such as a comprehensive Risk Assessment, training, medical surveillance, safe operating procedures, notification to the DEL of the removal, air monitoring by an AIA where the Risk Assessment indicates possible hazards and lastly safe transport and disposal of the waste.**
- The major change is thus that the organisation removing the asbestos cement products does not have to be registered with the DEL, but whoever removes these products must still comply with all the above safety measures.

For more details, refer to the attached OHS Directive issued by the Department of Employment and Labour. **Safetech can assist you with the development of a comprehensive Asbestos Management Plan, to ensure safe removal of your Asbestos containing cement products.**



INDOOR AIR QUALITY

Studies show that a good general measure of indoor air quality can be obtained through the proportion of CO₂ present in indoor air. The CO₂ level is directly related to human activity: number of people, frequency of meetings, etc. In general, the air quality will decrease rapidly with the increase in human activity.

Indoor air quality has a significant impact on workers' productivity, and acts in terms of both their health and their sense of well-being. Studies conducted demonstrate the direct influence of **temperature, humidity and Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)** levels on the occupants of indoor locations.

Poor indoor air quality causes:

Loss of concentration; nausea; headaches; nasal irritation; difficult breathing (dyspnea); dryness in the throat.

<https://iofactory.eu/the-importance-of-indoor-air-quality-iaq-for-business-performance-and-wellbeing/>

CARBON TAX WORKSHOP

Wednesday, 30th October 2019 (9am – 12pm)

The Carbon Tax Act is effective from 1 June 2019. Emitters will be required to license their activities liable for carbon tax, report to DEA by 31 March 2020 and make the first payment of this environmental levy during the month of July 2020. Dr Williams and Mr Mark Duckitt will present the workshop and will cover the following topics:

- Applicability of the Carbon Tax
- IPCC categories
- National Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulations
- Customs and Excise Act and how to calculate your actual tax liability
- Legislation which requires air pollution monitoring in South Africa

**The first Workshop sold out
in TWO DAYS
Don't delay! Contact
Safetech to book your place.**

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DERMAL EXPOSURE



The vast majority of permissible exposure limits are airborne exposure limits, and there are many options for characterizing airborne concentrations of chemicals using equipment such as instant-read air monitors, colorimetric tubes and personal sampling pumps to determine worker's exposure to hazardous chemical substances. Dermal exposures, however, are more difficult to characterise and monitor, and there is less guidance available for employers to determine which dermal exposures are more / less dangerous.

The skin is the body's largest organ and is the first line of defense against substances and exposures coming from the outside – such as sunlight, ionizing radiation, water, dust and hazardous chemicals. The degree of protection that the skin provides varies with the duration and type of exposure.

Studies show that absorption of chemicals through the skin can occur without being noticed by the worker, and in some cases, may represent the most significant exposure pathway. Many commonly used chemicals in the workplace could potentially result in systemic toxicity (affecting multiple organs) if they penetrate through the skin i.e. pesticides and organic solvents. These chemicals enter the blood stream and cause health problems away from the site of entry.

A chemical's health effects resulting from skin contact can be classified as:

Systemic toxicity. Some toxic chemicals can be absorbed through the skin in sufficient amounts to cause systemic toxic effects (affects many organs, not just one site).

Direct effects on the skin. Some chemical exposures affect the skin only at the point of contact, resulting in a localised reaction that does not involve the immune system. These chemicals are irritants, corrosives, chemicals that disrupt skin barrier integrity and those that affect skin pigmentation.

Immune-mediated reactions. Skin exposures can cause immune system responses, including allergic and sensitized reactions like allergic contact dermatitis. These effects may cause immune responses in other systems, as when a skin exposure causes a sensitivity that affects not just the skin but also the respiratory tract, leading to respiratory sensitivity or occupational asthma.

The OHS Act Regulations for Hazardous Chemicals Substances, as well as NIOSH, have published **skin notations (SK)** for identification of chemicals that can be absorbed through the skin.

<https://ehdhalysdivisor.blr.com/2017/10/heres-skinny-niosh-skin-notations/>

HEAT STRESS SAFETY



In many jobs heat stress is an issue all year round (such as bakeries, compressed air tunnels, foundries and smelting operations), but it can also be applicable during the hot summer months where there may be an increased risk of heat stress for some people.

Typical symptoms are:

- ☀ an inability to concentrate;
- ☀ muscle cramps;
- ☀ heat rash;
- ☀ severe thirst - a late symptom of heat stress;
- ☀ Fainting;
- ☀ heat exhaustion (fatigue, giddiness, nausea, headache)
- ☀ heat stroke (hot dry skin, confusion, convulsions and eventual loss of consciousness. This is the most severe disorder and can result in death if not detected at an early stage).



Heat stress occurs when the body's means of controlling its internal temperature starts to fail. As well as air temperature, factors such as work rate, humidity and clothing worn while working may lead to heat stress. Therefore it may not be obvious to someone passing through the workplace that there is a risk of heat stress.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/heatstress/>

Contact Safetech to conduct a HEAT STRESS survey at your site.