

## Dust Checklist

Many work activities in manufacturing and construction produce dust. One type of dust, asbestos, is, according to HSE estimates, the cause of more premature deaths than all types of workplace accident put together. They estimate that 4,000 people die annually from asbestos exposure.

While dusts such as asbestos, silica and wood are well-recognised as health hazards, all dusts should be considered hazardous to health. And, on top of the health risk, organic and some metal dusts create fire/explosion risks which can have disastrous consequences for businesses.

Use our checklist below to make sure you have all the right practical precautions in place.

For support in carrying out a dust COSHH assessment, please contact the Health, Safety and Welfare Team by e-mailing: [safetyadvice@gov.im](mailto:safetyadvice@gov.im)

**Department:**

**Address:**

**Useful Links:**

- HSE COSHH - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/>

<b>Evaluating the Problem</b>	
Have you identified sources of dust in the workplace? (Consider all processes and the materials involved and emitted.) Look specially at cutting, grinding, sanding, machining, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you treat all dust as harmful to health?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you carried out a formal written risk assessment under the COSHH Regulations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you checked to see if there is relevant HSE or industry guidance on the type of dust you are evaluating?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you considered the fire and explosion hazard as well as the health hazard (organic and some metal dusts will burn or even explode in certain conditions)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments:	

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<b>Control</b>	
Do you train all employees exposed to dust so that they understand the possible health hazard and the precautions they need to take to protect themselves?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you have a cleaning regime in place to minimise the build-up of dust on ledges and surfaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do your cleaning methods avoid the use of dry sweeping so far as possible?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you considered alternative raw materials that would reduce the dust problem (e.g. use of pellets instead of powder)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Where use of powders cannot be avoided, do you have methods of handling that minimise the dust emitted?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments:	
<b>Ventilation</b>	
Do you have suitable local exhaust ventilation (LEV) that, so far as is possible, removes any dust from the workplace atmosphere before it can be inhaled by the employee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Is your LEV regularly checked to make sure it remains effective?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you have a formal check of your LEV by an insurance engineer or similar?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Is your LEV system properly maintained (e.g. failure to replace filters on time can greatly diminish the system's effectiveness)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments:	
<b>Personal Protective Equipment</b>	
Where employees need to wear PPE, such as dust masks, have you selected the right type of mask for the dust?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you show employees how to fit and adjust the masks properly?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you have arrangements for the safe storage and proper maintenance of	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes



any PPE?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you have a record of all checks and maintenance on your control measures (LEV, PPE)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you made clear the arrangements for repairing or replacing any item of PPE that's defective?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Have you recorded what PPE has been issued to which person?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments:	
<b>Asbestos</b>	
If you have asbestos on the premises, do you know its location and have a management plan in place under which any work likely to produce asbestos dust is strictly controlled?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Are all materials known or suspected to contain asbestos suitably marked?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you monitor its condition?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Do you limit all work with asbestos to properly trained and equipped (and where appropriate, licensed) workers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
Comments:	

