



## RESPIRATORY RISKS CHECKLIST

The HSE made a [recent announcement](#) that running from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 a targeted inspection initiative focusing on respiratory risks to construction workers from exposure to silica and wood dust.

See below our checklist to help you prepare. If you need any help in answering the questions, please get in touch [here](#).

Question	Hints	Yes	No	Action
1. Do you know what substances that <b>you bring into your workplace</b> that are hazardous to your workers lungs? Do they all have up to date COSHH assessments?	<i>Check your COSHH store and COSHH register, has everything been risk assessed and reviewed recently? Do you have any new products or ways of working with them that need to be updated?</i>			
2. Think about the tasks you undertake that produce hazardous substances, have you got <b>TASK SPECIFIC</b> risk assessment or COSHH assessment?	<i>Think welding, using diesel powered plant and equipment, scabbling, chasing, cutting products containing silica or wood and generate dust.</i>			
3. Think about the work environment, are there any hazardous substances already present? Do they have risk assessments?	<i>For example, asbestos, lead based paints, or contaminated land. Have you had surveys done?</i>			
4. Do you have someone or people responsible for managing hazardous substances? Have they been trained?				
5. Have the use or exposure to substances been eliminated or avoided where possible?	<i>Think about the design stage, are hazardous substances identified and less harmful products or activities considered? Think pre-cast fixtures rather than drilling into concrete, think of mechanical fixings rather than welding.</i>			
6. Have all workers that are likely to be exposed to hazardous substances been considered?	<i>Think about maintenance, emergency works and other workers in the near vicinity. Are they all adequately protected?</i>			
7. Have adequate control measures been specified and are they followed by the workforce?	<i>Are you using on tool extraction, local exhaust ventilation, damping down? Do the workers understand how to use these controls, can you evidence this? <a href="#">HSE guidance</a></i>			
8. If you use LEV, do you have maintenance records of this?	<i>LEV needs to be tested every 14 months and record kept for 5 years</i>			

9. If respiratory protection has been specified, has someone competent determined what that should be?	<i>Think about the substances, are they protected from dusts, fumes, do they have the right filter and type of mask? Note that <b>HSE requires RPE for all welding activities.</b></i>			
10. If you are using reusable RPE, is there a maintenance programme in place?	<i>Reusable RPE needs to be cleaned and maintained, do you have a record of this process?</i>			
11. Have your workers been face fit tested? Do they wear their RPE correctly? Are they clean shaven?	<i>Check your records for your workers and they have been tested for the type of mask they are using, Also ensure they are clean shaven when wearing the mask.</i>			
12. Have your workers and supervisors been trained?	<i>Do you evidence that your workers have been trained on the risks associated with their work? Do you supervisors understand their role in protecting their teams?</i>			
13. Do you workers undergo respiratory health surveillance?	<i>Check with your Occupational Health provider, if workers are exposed to hazardous substances its very likely they'll need to have regular health checks with a OH provider.</i>			
14. Have you undertaken any measurements to determine the level of exposure to your workers?	<i>Have you had any monitoring undertaken by an occupational hygienist? Particularly if you're unsure of the level of exposure or it is particularly high risk.</i>			

### HSE Inspectors guidance

Issues determining risk and limiting control effectiveness: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00017-appendix1.pdf>

Initial Enforcement Expectation (IEE) for common tasks creating construction dust: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00017-appendix3.pdf>

IEE for management arrangements: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00017-appendix4.pdf>

IEE for COSHH management arrangements: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00036-appendix3.pdf>

RPE inspection guideline summary: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00041-appendix-1.pdf>

RPE Inspection Aide Memoir: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/og/og-00041-appendix-3.pdf>