

Indoor air quality monitoring

As an employer you have a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your employees who work in an indoor environment.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 requires employers to assess and control the exposure of their workforce to hazardous materials. The Workplace (Health Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 also require that a 'sufficient supply of fresh or purified air' is provided. Poor air quality can reduce productivity and increase sickness absence

Our consultants have the necessary expertise and equipment to undertake a thorough building survey, detecting airborne contaminants including carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide, volatile organic compounds, and many more airborne contaminants including substances as diverse as mercury and lead. The majority of our equipment is direct reading and will provide instant results.

Other environmental factors such as temperature, noise, relative humidity, lighting levels and ventilation rates are also measured. Clients are then advised on the measures necessary to maintain a healthy and productive workplace.

LEV (Local Exhaust Ventilation)

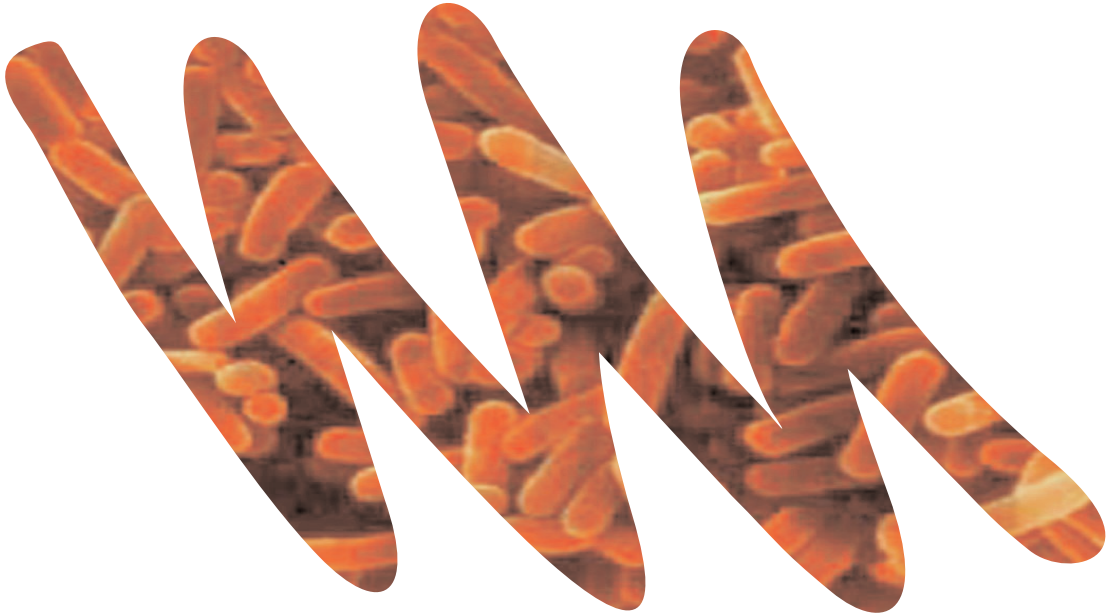
Where a local exhaust ventilation system such as dust or fume extraction is used to control exposure to substances hazardous to health, there is a legal duty to ensure that the system continues to operate effectively.

Thorough examination and tests should be carried out at least once every 14 months to ensure the LEV equipment remains in good working order and complies with the COSHH Regulations 2002.

ALS can carry out face velocity measurement testing to ensure that the LEV system continues to operate as originally intended or identify problems and cost effective remedial action.

Our sister company, RSA, offer the following services:

- Food Safety Consultancy and training
- Employment Agency and Recruitment Services
- Ship Sanitation
- Housing
- Planning
- Safety videos and DVD's
- Interactive training products
- I.T. Safety Solutions



Occupational Hygiene

Supporting UK Businesses



Phone 01375 673279 Fax 01375 678059 • www.alsltd.com info@alsltd.com

Occupational Hygiene

The International Occupational Hygiene Association defines Occupational Hygiene as:

'The discipline of anticipating, recognising, evaluating and controlling health hazards in the working environment with the objective of protecting worker health and well-being and safeguarding the community at large'.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (COSHH) 2002 requires that all employers assess the risk to workers of exposure to hazardous substances.

Workplace Exposure Surveys

We can carry out a large range of surveys to measure exposure to contaminants within your workplace. We are able to assess exposure from:

- Solvents
- Gases
- Particulates
- Or any chemical in your workplace

Some monitoring work requires samples to be collected and analysed at a laboratory. We only use UKAS accredited laboratories to ensure that the highest level of technical accuracy is maintained. Once the results are received, ALS consultants will produce a report recommending the appropriate action to enable you to protect your employees and meet the law.

Noise Risk Assessment

Exposure to high noise levels will cause noise induced hearing loss or conditions such as tinnitus. The damage to hearing is slow, painless and permanent. If you have to raise your voice to be heard by someone about two metres away, the noise level is probably excessive and a risk assessment should be undertaken by a competent person. Our consultants are able to carry out the noise risk assessment and can identify practical solutions to your problems.

Noise induced hearing loss can be caused by either a sustained exposure to excessive noise levels or high impulses of noise, which can cause instant damage. Therefore, measurements are taken which assess the average 'noise dose' an individual is subjected to throughout the day and also any 'peaks' of noise which could result in instant hearing damage. Noise level measurements are undertaken using an integrating data logging sound level metre or dosimeter worn by an employee for the duration of the working shift. Noise levels are recorded over a period of time in order to assess the personal noise dosage levels. Measurements are included in a report to the client in graphical form, along with recommendations for noise exposure control.

We can undertake personal noise dosage monitoring and all work ranging from simple noise risk assessments of individual processes or machinery, through to full noise surveys. In every case you will receive a full written report together with recommendations in accordance with the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005.

If you feel that you may need a noise risk assessment within your workplace, ring us for an informal chat. This will help us to understand the issues within your workplace and enable us to suggest an assessment programme.

Legionella Sampling and Legionella Risk Assessments

Legionnaires' disease is a potentially fatal pneumonia caused by legionella bacteria. Infection is caused by breathing in small droplets of water contaminated by the bacteria. Everyone is potentially susceptible to infection.

Under health and safety legislation and the L8 Approved Code of Practice, you have to consider the risks from legionella that may affect your staff or members of the public and take suitable precautions. Our consultants can carry out comprehensive water system risk assessments, water sampling and testing. Contact us for a competitive quote today.

Mercury Detection and Monitoring

Mercury has been widely used in the United Kingdom for many years. Its uses include medical and industrial instruments such as thermometers, manometers and pressure sensing devices and it is still used in the electrical industry for the manufacture of fluorescent and mercury discharge lamps. It has also been widely used over a number of years in educational establishments, including schools, colleges and universities and is still in use today in research laboratories and hospitals.

Exposure to mercury can occur from direct skin contact, although the principal route of exposure is by inhalation. Symptoms from exposure can range from nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain to kidney damage and in the worst case scenario, death.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) requires employers to protect people in the workplace against the risks of exposure to substances classified as hazardous to health.

If equipment containing mercury is being used on your premises, or has been used in the past, there is a possibility

that mercury contamination is present. The only way to be certain is to carry out a mercury survey.

Our consultants have the necessary expertise and equipment to undertake thorough building surveys which can detect and identify mercury contamination. Our surveys can be carried out using direct reading (instant results) or continuous monitoring equipment or a combination of both. As part of the contamination survey, physical material samples can be taken and analysed to confirm the levels of mercury present. ALS can then advise of the appropriate actions required to facilitate safe and cost-effective decontamination of the area.

Hazardous Substance Monitoring

Using chemicals or other hazardous substances at work can put people's health at risk. Legislation, such as the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) requires employers to control exposure to hazardous substances to prevent ill health. They must ensure that both employees and others who may be affected by their activities are safe and their exposure controlled.

If you, as an employer, fail to adequately control hazardous substances, your employees could be affected. Effects from hazardous substance exposure can range from mild eye irritation to chronic lung disease or even, in the worst case scenario, a fatality.

ALS can carry out your COSHH assessments, including exposure monitoring, and give recommendations on control methods.

ALS can provide an extensive range of exposure monitoring from basic gravimetric sampling to detailed qualitative analysis/assessment of workplace hazards.

