




HSE Inspectors are visiting sites NOW and focusing on *controlling dust*.
Are you meeting your legal requirements?

Here at the  our Approved Training Providers and Partners are here to help.

AUDIT SERVICES

Preferential rates for NAS Members. Contact enquiries@shopfitters.org for details		
NAS Approved Provider	Detail	Cost
	<p>WOOD DUST can cause serious health problems. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 require that you protect workers from the hazards of wood dust.</p> <p>Hardwood dust can cause cancer, particularly of the nose. Settled dust contains the fine particles that are most likely to damage the lungs.</p> <p>ARE YOU MEETING YOUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are you getting your extraction inspected and tested at least every 14 months? • Do you still have employees sweeping up and blowing down? • Are your vacuums inspected and correct type? • Do you extract from your power tools? • Do you monitor your employee health? <p>Didac offer a first line audit service to ensure you and your employees are working within the work exposure limits using the latest monitoring equipment.</p>	<p>DURATION: One Day + Half a day report writing (may increase, depending upon size of company).</p> <p>LOCATION: National Delivery</p> <p>COST: £900+vat (plus travel etc where relevant)</p>

WOOD DUST - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Wood dust can cause serious health problems. It can cause asthma, which those working in the wood industry are four times more likely to get compared with other UK workers.

The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations 2002 require that you protect workers from the hazards of wood dust.

Hardwood dust can cause cancer, particularly of the nose.

Settled dust contains the fine particles that are most likely to damage the lungs.



ARE YOU MEETING YOUR LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?

1. Are you getting your extraction inspected and tested at least every 14 months?
2. Do you still have employees sweeping up and blowing down?
3. Are your vacuums inspected and correct type?
4. Do you extract from your power tools?
5. Do you monitor your employee health?

If you have answered no to any of the above or not sure, there is a chance your workshop is not meeting legal requirements.

1. HSE state to keep the extraction system properly maintained and working correctly (it is a legal requirement to have it examined by a competent person at least every 14 months). Follow the extraction manufacturer's guidance for maintenance requirements
2. HSE state to never sweep up or use compressed air lines as this will disturb the dust and allow it to become inhaled.
3. HSE state to always clean up using a suitable industrial vacuum cleaner that at least meets the Class M classification.
4. HSE state you should always remove substances hazardous to health at the source, therefore, using extraction on portable power tools enable this. For very dusty jobs such as sanding, additional protection may be needed and a suitable face mask should be worn as well as using the extraction.
5. Because wood dust causes asthma, any health effects must be picked up early. This can be done using health surveillance. For most woods, low level health surveillance will do. When someone first starts in a job where they are exposed to wood dust they should fill in a questionnaire.

After six weeks they should then complete a follow up questionnaire and this should then be repeated every year. These questionnaires tell you what to do if you think someone has been affected. A higher level of health surveillance, including lung function testing, is needed for exposures to woods such as western red cedar which are a known asthmagen.

WHAT ARE WORK EXPOSURE LIMITS (WEL)?

As well as controlling exposure to substances hazardous to health, you need to be aware that legal limits have been set on the amounts of many of the substances that can be present in workplace air. These are known as workplace exposure limits (WELs).

Find out more [c/o HSE - Exposure Limits](#)

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM MEETING LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?

Using latest monitoring equipment to provide instant indicative results, we can advise you of the current exposure levels and help identify where improvements can be made.

Didac will liaise with you and then arrange a visit to carry out this audit and provide a written report, including improvements that can be made.

Warning on deadly wood dust cancer

A carpenter who was given a false negative cancer result at an Eastbourne hospital died of an occupational tumour, an inquest has heard. The carpenter died at his home on Christmas Day 2009 from cancer of the nose.

At an inquest at Eastbourne Magistrates Court into the death of the 67-year-old, the coroner was told the deceased had been transferred to the hospital by his doctor after complaining of sinus problems. After various examinations and tests, samples from the tumour were sent for analysis.

The tests came back as benign but two-and-a-half months later the carpenter was diagnosed with cancer. The Coroner recorded a verdict of industrial disease.

