

Ref A: [www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/mild-steel-welding-fume.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/mild-steel-welding-fume.htm)

Ref B: [www.iosh.co.uk/News/HSE-changes-to-welding-fume-control-standards-what-you-need-to-know.aspx](http://www.iosh.co.uk/News/HSE-changes-to-welding-fume-control-standards-what-you-need-to-know.aspx)



Source: [www.iosh.co.uk](http://www.iosh.co.uk)

## Introduction

There is new scientific evidence that exposure to all welding fume, including mild steel welding fume, can cause lung and kidney cancer. The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) shared with the Industry and Regulatory Forum on Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) that they have raised enforced control measures for welding operations in the UK.

## Action required to meet the new standards

- Make sure exposure to any welding fume released is adequately controlled using engineering controls (typically LEV).
- Make sure suitable controls are provided for all welding activities, irrelevant of duration. This includes welding outdoors.
- Where engineering controls alone cannot control exposure, then adequate and suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) should be provided to control risk from any residual fume.
- Make sure all engineering controls are correctly used, suitably maintained and are subject to thorough examination and test where required.
- Make sure any RPE is subject to an RPE programme, which encapsulates all the elements of RPE use.
- Outdoor welding requires use of RPE.

## Enforcement

Enforcement of the raised control standards is with immediate effect under COSHH Regulation 7.

{Original Signed}  
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