

Thorough Examination and Testing (TExT) and LEV

Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) can be used as a control measure to reduce the release of hazardous substances into the air, before workers breathe them in. However, if your LEV is not working effectively, you may not be protecting the health of your staff adequately, or complying with the law.

LEV is used to control processes that generate dusts, mists or vapours, to protect workers from illness including lung disease and cancer.

LEV is used in a variety of processes and industries, including woodworking, welding, paint-spraying, foundries and metal fabrication, amongst others.

Under Regulation 9 of COSHH you are required to check, test, and maintain control measures. This includes Thorough Examination and Testing (TExT) every 14 months, or more frequently according to Schedule 4 of COSHH.

How can duty-holders ensure they are compliant?

Where installed, the employer must ensure the LEV is suitable for use, regularly maintained and checked, and that Thorough Examination and Testing (TExT) is undertaken by a competent person at the correct intervals.

In addition to TExT, a responsible person designated by the employer should carry out checks on the LEV in line with the log book e.g. daily, weekly.

Staff will need to be provided with information, instruction and training regarding good practice use of LEV to reduce exposure, and also what checks and maintenance tasks are required, by who and when.

Thorough Examination and Testing (TExT) by a competent occupational hygienist can help to determine how effective your control measures are, helping you to protect your workforce and remain compliant with regulations.

An occupational hygienist can help to determine if you are compliant and protecting your staff adequately

