

Occupational Asthma

Our experts can help you to understand which asthma causing agents are likely to have been present in work environments. We can also provide advice and evidence on the adequacy of the risk control measures that were implemented.

Pragma

Exposure to dust and fumes in the workplace can either cause asthma (occupational asthma) or make existing asthma worse (work aggravated asthma).

OA can develop following exposure to allergens such as isocyanates or biological agents such as mould or following exposure to irritants such as irritant gases, fume or vapour in the workplace.

From 2015 to 2019 'The Health & Occupation Reporting' (THOR) network data showed that the annual incidence of OA has tended to increase, with 198 estimated new cases in 2019.

Epidemiological studies and European reports suggest that the increase of work related asthma may be up to 10 times higher than reported by THOR.

Main exposures (in order)

Isocyanates
Flour/grain
Wood dust
Cleaning products
Metal fume (soldering and/or welding of stainless steel)
Epoxy and other resins
Enzymes
Hair products
Latex

Occupations with the highest reported risks

Vehicle paint technicians
Bakers and flour confectioners
Manufacture of food products
Manufacture of motor vehicles
Manufacture of chemicals and chemical products
Manufacture of basic metals

Our experts can assist with occupational asthma cases. To discuss a case with one of our team, please contact our Business Coordinator, Laura Hooper on:

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