


COSHH HAZARD & RISK ASSESSMENT SHEET

No.: 20

SUBSTANCE/PRODUCT NAME AND DESCRIPTION: WOOD DUST - HARDWOOD & SOFTWOOD

HAZARDOUS CONTENT	LTEL	STEL	CLASSIFICATION		
Wood dust Maximum Exposure Level	5 mg/m ³		 Health hazard/ Hazardous to the ozone layer	Risk phrase – R49 may cause cancer by inhalation	Risk Phrase R42 - May cause sensitisation by inhalation

HOW IS SUBSTANCE SUPPLIED, USED?

Wood dust is produced whenever wood products are cut or machined. High speed machinery process produce greater volumes of dust than hand operations. Hardwood dust is a known carcinogen (risk phrase R45) and a sensitiser. Softwood dust has now also been rated as a capable of causing sensitisation by inhalation and has been given an MEL of 5 mg/m³ - the same as hardwood dust and assigned the risk phrase r42 – may cause sensitisation by inhalation.

ASSESSMENT OF RISK, AND PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN

If wood dust is being produced due to woodworking machinery applications dust extraction, personal sampling and medical surveillance must all be considered. There is also a risk of a dust explosion in wood dust collection systems. In house building wood dust is produced from hand cutting and occasional short duration portable power tool operation. All power tools are required to have Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV) for the collection of dust. This includes all cuts that are conducted outside or within an enclosed environment. The correct use of a FFP3 respiratory mask is also to be worn for all cuts undertaken with a power tool, outside and within an enclosed environment.

*The PPE indicated below (✓) should be worn when working with this substance in the manner described. If site rules state other PPE must be worn **at all times** then the rules must be adhered to as well as the following recommendations.*

						
N/A	N/A	✓	N/A	N/A	✓	N/A
Eye Protection must be worn	Safety footwear must be worn	Ear defenders must be worn	Gloves must be worn	Face Masks must be worn	RPE must be worn	Protective clothing must be worn

FIRST AID INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY ACTIONS

Skin - wash with soap & water especially before consuming food or drinks.

Eyes - wash with copious amounts of water

Inhalation - Avoid inhalation of dust - Dust extraction equipment to be provided. If this is not practicable, suitable respiratory protection to be provided and used.

NB: If the product is being used in a manner different from the way described above, a separate risk assessment will be needed