



WeldingWorld

New series of 'Protecting Welders' roadshows in the UK

BOHS, the Chartered Society for Worker Health Protection, has announced details of its programme of free morning seminars focusing on the prevention of occupational lung disease in the manufacturing sector, especially amongst those carrying out welding tasks.

These events are brought by the [Breathe Freely in Manufacturing](#) campaign and [Plymovent](#) in a variety of locations, starting from Birmingham on the 19th of February 2020. The campaign has been raising awareness about occupational lung disease in manufacturing since 2017 in partnership with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Make UK (former EEF, the manufacturers' organisation), TWI, TUC, JCB, Toyota and BAE Systems.

The roadshows are being presented at a time of growing synergy in collective efforts to tackle life-threatening lung diseases caused by exposures to welding fume.

Key milestones have included the following:

- Welding fume was recently reclassified as carcinogenic to humans by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).
- Subsequently, in February 2019, the HSE strengthened its expectations for controlling all welding fume, including from mild steel welding, issuing a [safety alert](#) on the subject.
- In November 2019, the HSE updated its guidance on controlling welding fume, also producing a new [welding microsite](#) explaining how to protect workers from welding fume.
- During January to March 2020, HSE is conducting a targeted inspection campaign directed at businesses that carry out metal fabrication work, checking on control of exposure to welding fume and metalworking fluids.

Who should attend?

Anyone who needs to keep abreast of these changes, ie those with health and safety roles in the manufacturing industry and those responsible for managing welders and protecting workers' health should attend.

What will the sessions offer?

- An outline of the problems – and solutions – around the respiratory health of welders in manufacturing, by leaders in worker health protection
- Free materials: Speakers will explain the Breathe Freely in Manufacturing campaign and guide delegates in the use of the free resources and tools available.
- Best practice: Industry professionals will present examples and case studies showcasing best practice in the manufacturing sector.
- Showcase of the [Welding Fume Control Selector Tool](#): This free online tool allows users to select the optimum welding fume control solution for regular welding tasks
- A chance to network: The roadshows will provide an opportunity to network with other industry professionals with the exchange of perspectives, knowledge and expertise.
- A hearty breakfast: The sessions will kick off with baps, coffee and tea.
- Cost: Free of charge.

Where and when will the roadshows take place?

- Birmingham: 19th February 2020
- Manchester: 19th March 2020
- Durham: 13th May 2020
- Bristol: 18th June 2020