



Controlling exposures to prevent occupational lung disease in **MANUFACTURING**

An introduction to welding: why do workers need protecting?

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Welding is one of the most common activities carried out in industry. It is estimated that there are 190,000 workers in the UK who weld, comprising of around 73,000 professional, skilled welders and many other unskilled or semi-skilled welders who carry out welding as part of their job.



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There are a number of health hazards associated with welding in particular the following:

Fumes

These are very fine solid particles temporarily suspended in the air.

Gases

These may include ozone and, in the case of metal inert gas (MIG) and tungsten inert gas (TIG) welding, inert gases that can present a problem when working in confined spaces.

UV radiation from the welding arc

This can affect the eye ("arc eye") and skin and is also responsible for the generation of ozone from atmospheric oxygen.

