

HSE's Expectations

BOHS / OXYL8 LEV Duty Holder Day

Robert Williams CFFOH
Principal Occupational Hygienist

11th September 2026





Expectation No 1

That exposure to substances hazardous to health is “*Adequately Controlled*”





What is Adequate Control Under COSHH?

- **Exposures not exceed any WEL**
- **ALARP – carcinogens / asthmagens**
- **Principles Good of Control applied**

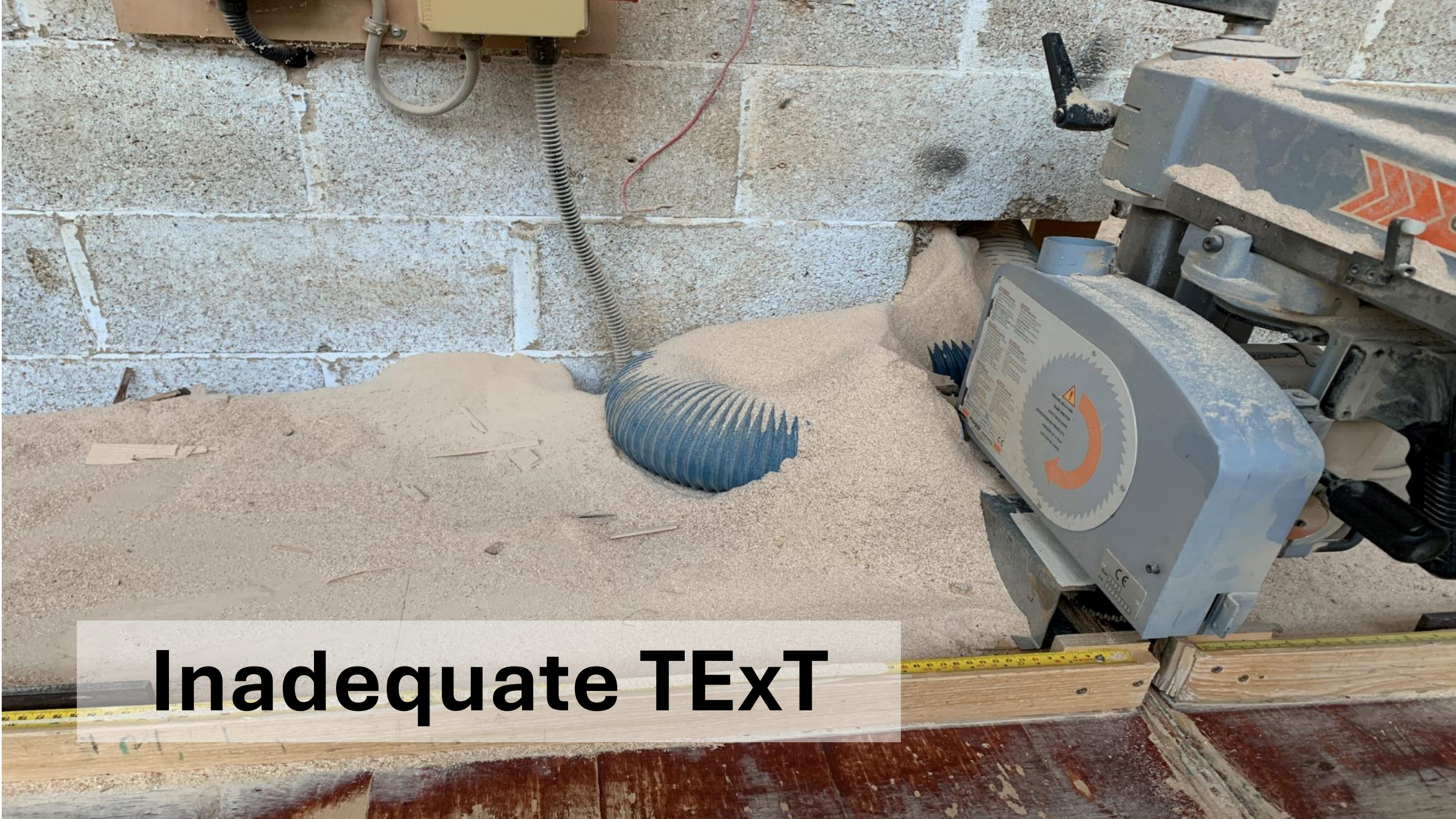
**e.g. design & operate processes to minimise emission & spread;
controls proportionate to risk; choose most effective & reliable controls;
consider all exposure routes; IIT**





Expectation No 2

**Appoint a
Competent
Person**



Inadequate TExT

**PROTECTING PEOPLE
AND PLACES**





Airtec Filtration Ltd

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Ventilation testing company fined for putting hundreds at risk

7th November 2022



A company that tests ventilation systems has been fined for putting hundreds of workers at risk of serious lung diseases.

Airtec Filtration Ltd was used by businesses across the UK to test extract ventilation systems, which reduce exposures to airborne contaminants in a workplace.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found the firm, which is based in St Helens, Merseyside provided its customers with inaccurate test results, potentially leaving staff in those businesses unaware of the risks they faced.

In one incident, when assessing a car manufacturing business, the Airtec engineer failed to identify the presence of rubber fumes, which are carcinogenic and can lead to cancer.

In another, a baking company used flour and other respiratory allergens, which the engineer identified inadequately as food dusts. The Airtec engineer failed to provide any other information to highlight the presence of asthmagens, which can lead to occupational asthma.

Between 2018 and 2019 Airtec Filtration Ltd were providing Through Examination and Tests (TEXT) of local exhaust ventilation (LEV) systems, which are designed to control substances dangerous to health



POSITIVE NEWS
How Jacobs keeps mental health in check



STRATEGY
The brilliance of resilience

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EXCLUSIVE: OSH SERVICE PROVIDERS FACE A NEW ERA OF PROACTIVE HSE PROSECUTIONS

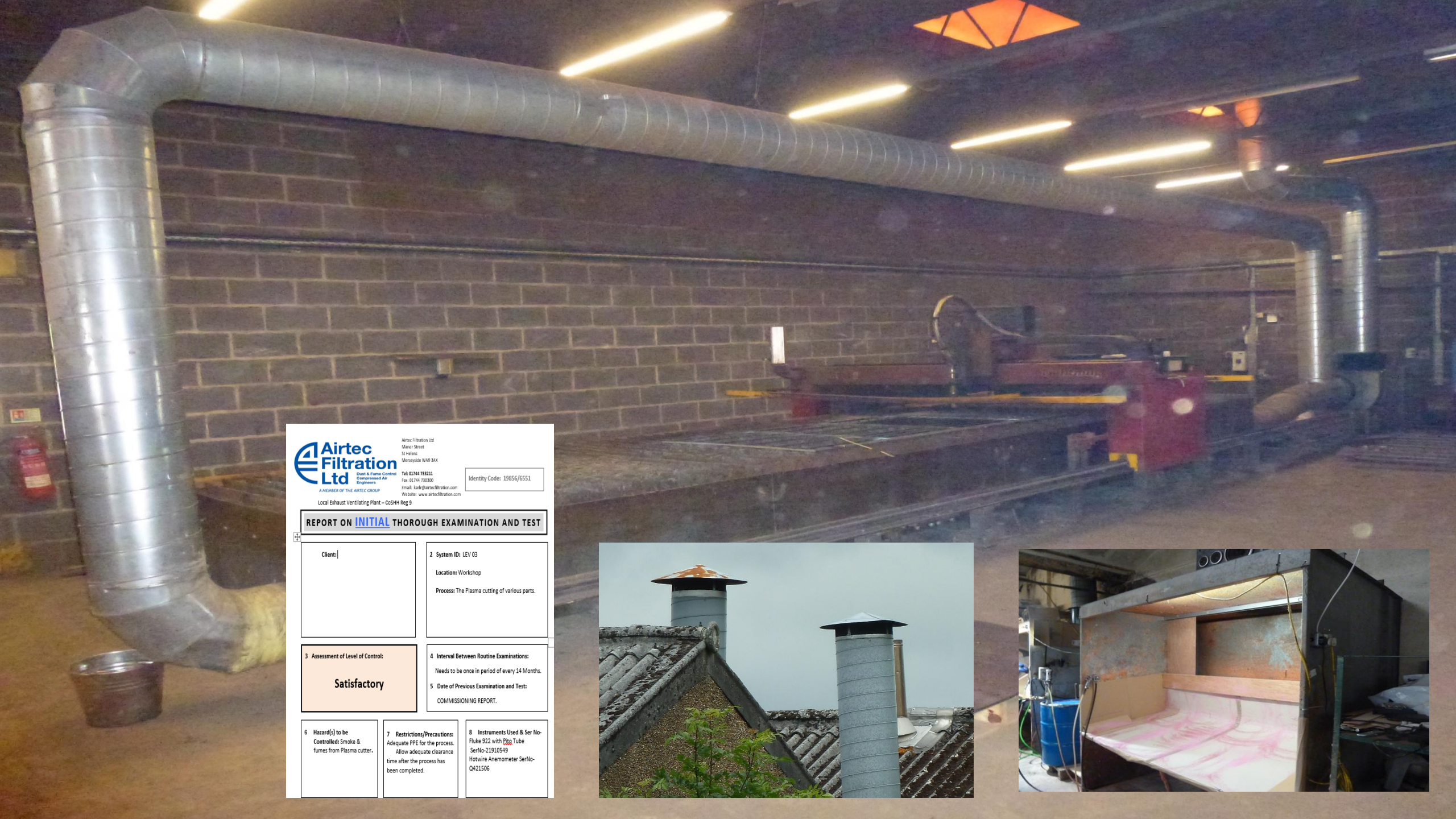
Thursday 2nd February 2023

MATT LAMY



We look at a proactive HSE prosecution case that combined the instincts of a tenacious HSE inspector with the technical knowledge of one of her colleagues to hold a LEV examination and testing company to account.

Speak to any Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspector and they will admit that most of their prosecutions arise reactively: an accident or injury occurs, and they are sent in to find out what has happened and, if necessary, prosecute any liable parties. But for HSE inspector Rose Leese-Weller, her professional instincts during one inspection made her feel it was important to be proactive.



 Airtec Filtration Ltd A MEMBER OF THE AIRTEC GROUP Local Exhaust Ventilating Plant – COSHH Reg 9		Airtec Filtration Ltd Main Street St Helens Merseyside WA9 5AX Tel: 01744 793211 Fax: 01744 793380 Email: kate@airtecfiltration.com Website: www.airtecfiltration.com	Identity Code: 19856/6551
REPORT ON INITIAL THOROUGH EXAMINATION AND TEST			
Client:		2 System ID: LEV 03	
		Location: Workshop	
		Process: The Plasma cutting of various parts.	
3 Assessment of Level of Control:		4 Interval Between Routine Examinations:	
Satisfactory		Needs to be once in period of every 14 Months.	
		5 Date of Previous Examination and Test:	
		COMMISSIONING REPORT.	
6 Hazard(s) to be Controlled: Smoke & fumes from Plasma cutter.	7 Restrictions/Precautions: Adequate PPE for the process. Allow adequate clearance time after the process has been completed.	8 Instruments Used & Ser No- Fluke 922 with P30 Tube SerNo-21910549 Hotwire Anemometer SerNo- Q421506	





Canopy Extraction

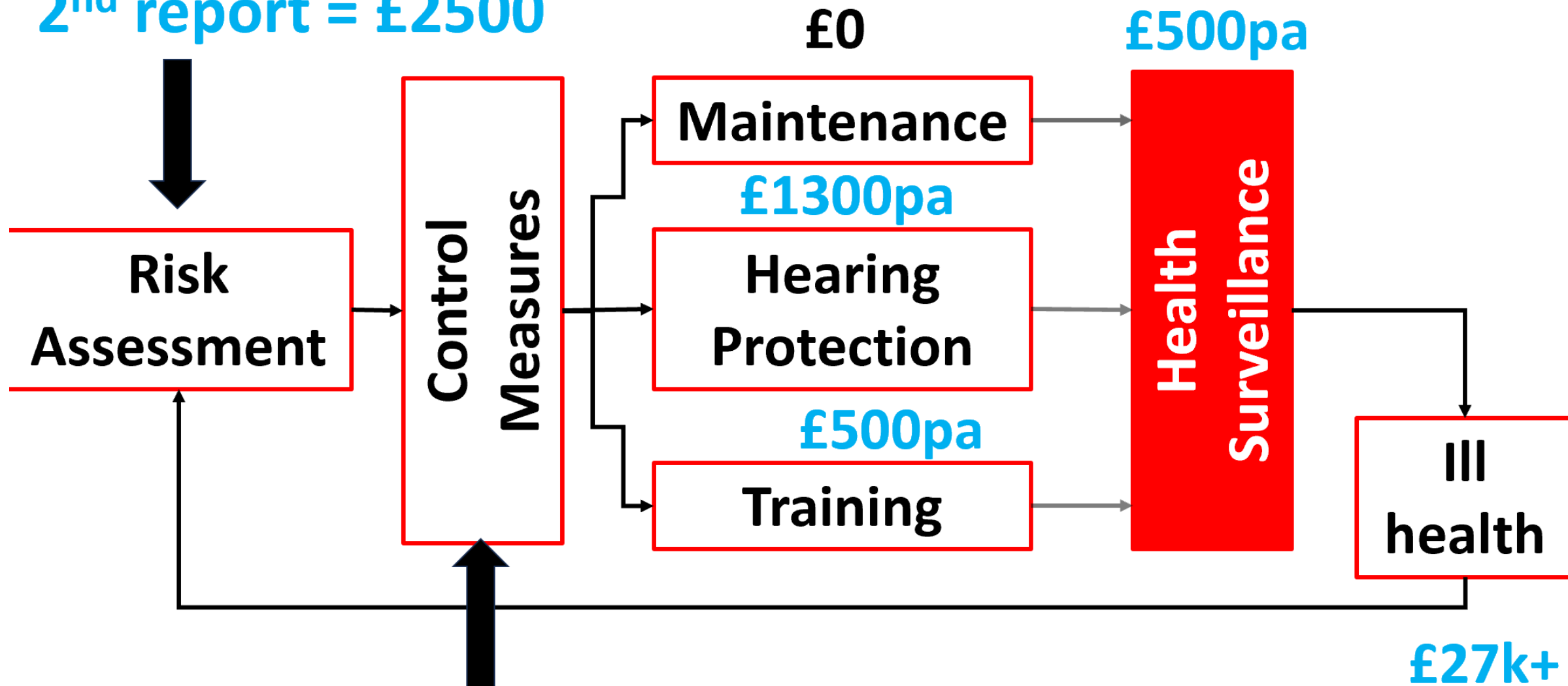


**PROTECTING PEOPLE
AND PLACES**



1st report = £1500

2nd report = £2500



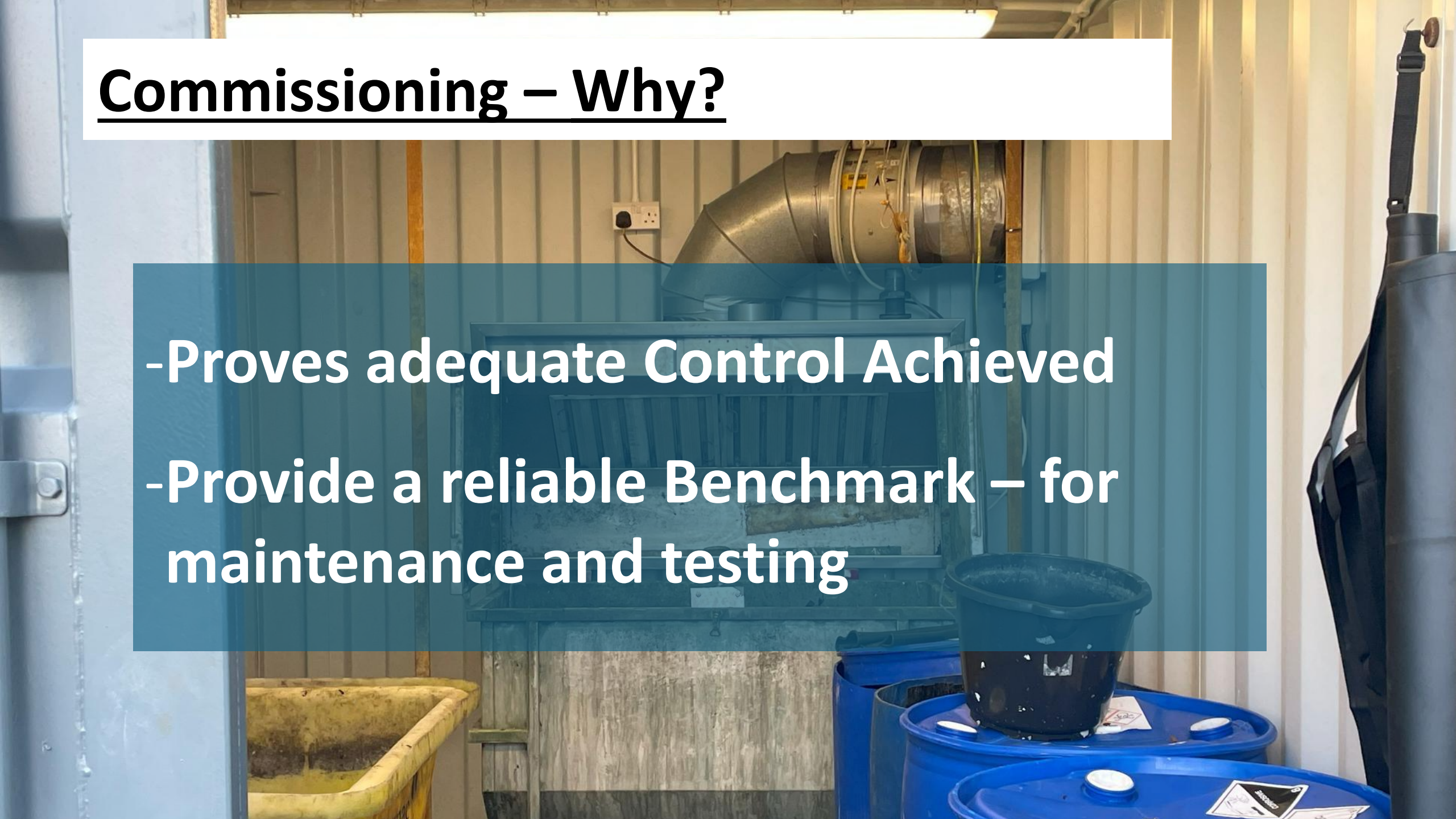
Expectation No 3

Commission the LEV System



Commissioning – Why?

- Proves adequate Control Achieved
- Provide a reliable Benchmark – for maintenance and testing



Commissioning



Commissioning



Commissioning – Simple Systems





Commissioning – Complex



Commissioning – Complex or Simple?

Visit HSE's website for more guidance about [local exhaust ventilation \(LEV\)](#).

Commission your LEV system

New webpage launched on commissioning LEV systems.

LEV helps control exposure to gas, vapour, dust, fume and mist in workplace air by extracting the clouds of contaminant at source before people breathe them in.

'Commissioning' is proving that the LEV system is capable of providing adequate control. As an employer, you should commission your LEV system to make sure it adequately protects people from breathing in harmful substances.

Under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations, 2002 (COSHH) dutyholders must adequately control exposure to substances in the workplace that cause ill-health.

In Great Britain, occupational lung disease accounts for around 12,000 annual deaths, estimated to be linked to past exposures at work. A crucial part of our 10-year strategy '[The HSE Strategy - protecting people and places](#)' is to reduce work-related ill-health, with a priority of tackling occupational lung disease.

Read our new webpage: [Commission your LEV system](#).

Commission your local exhaust ventilation (LEV) system - HSE

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TExT & Commissioning Reports

Institute of Local
Exhaust Ventilation
Engineers (ILEVE)

ILEVE Member
Competency Card

ILEVE Newsletter

Technical Information

Guidance for LEV
Assessors

Health & Safety
Executive Information

Managing the Health
Risks of Welding

LEV Escalation Letter

– **TExT & Commissioning
Reports**

Last updated pre-2024

These documents are for the intended use by competent professional persons carrying out the commissioning or thorough examination and testing of local exhaust ventilation systems.

- [ILEVE Best Practice Guide to Commissioning of LEV Systems](#)
- [ILEVE LEV Commissioning Report Template Word](#)
- [ILEVE LEV Commissioning Report Template PDF](#)
- [ILEVE LEV TExT Report Template Word](#)
- [ILEVE LEV TExT Report Template PDF](#)

The use of these documents does not ensure compliance with the COSHH Regulations or HSE requirements. They also do not ensure competence.

Persons may use these templates in the full knowledge that their intended use is:

- They are templates and may need to be amended to suit the system being tested
- All Commissioning and TExT reports are to be in accordance with HSG258 & COSHH L5

Commissioning – common issues

- Not undertaken
- Not prove adequate control
 - Not observed in use / not staggered
 - No qualitative tests
 - No suitable air monitoring (complex systems)
 - Benchmark – unknown provenance
- Rebadged LEV TeXTs report
- Competency

Expectations

- 1. That exposure to substances hazardous to health is *“Adequately Controlled”***
- 2. Appoint Competent Persons**
- 3. Commission the LEV System**



**PROTECTING PEOPLE
AND PLACES** 

What Can You Do?

**Be an
Intelligent
Customer**

Thank you