

VAPOUR DEGREASING BATH

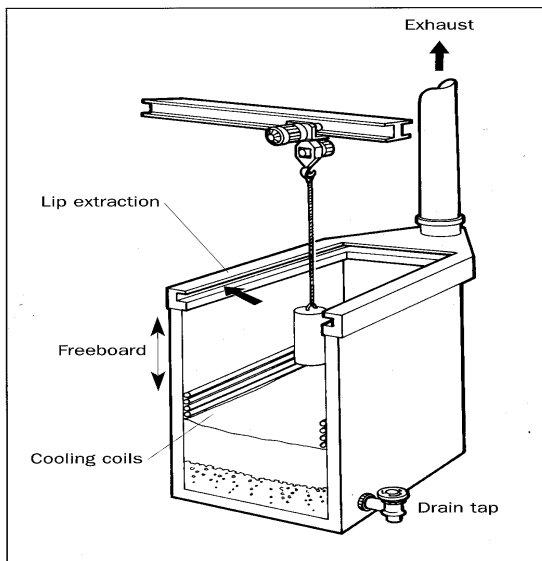
Scope

This control sheet is part of the ILO Chemical Control Toolkit and should be used when the toolkit identifies that a control approach 2 solution is needed. This sheet provides good practice advice on using medium and large-scale vapour degreasing baths. It is important that all points are followed. Some chemicals are flammable or corrosive and your controls must be suitable for those hazards too. Look at the safety data sheet for more information. Air cleaning equipment may be necessary before discharging exhaust air to the atmosphere. This sheet identifies the minimum standards you need to apply to protect your health. It should not be used to justify a lower standard of control than that which may be required for process control or control of other risks.

Access

- Keep unnecessary people away from the work area. Ensure that no one is working close by downwind.

Design and Equipment



- Ensure that the local exhaust is extracted from the rim of the bath.
 - The freeboard height (see diagram) should be at least 75% of the width of the open area of the bath.
 - Allow components to fully dry in the freeboard zone.
 - Cover the bath when not in use.
 - Ensure operators are trained not to withdraw workpieces too quickly from the bath as this will drag out vapour.
 - Ensure the bath has a bottom drain for removing the solvent.
- Set the bath thermostat correctly and balance the heating and cooling systems so as not to overload the cooling coils.
 - Where possible, locate the work away from doors and windows to stop draughts interfering with the LEV and spreading the dusts or vapours.
 - Keep extraction ducts short and simple and avoid long sections of flexible duct.
 - Provide an easy way of checking the LEV is working such as a ribbon strip attached to the intake side.
 - Discharge extracted air to a safe place away from doors, windows and air inlets. Be careful that extracted air does not affect neighbours.

Examination, Testing and Maintenance

- Get information on the design performance of the equipment from the supplier. Keep this information to compare with future test results.
- Check that the extraction system is working every day when it is switched on.
- Visually check the ducting once a week for signs of damage, and repair when necessary.
- Have the system thoroughly examined and tested at least once a year.
- Maintain the equipment as advised by the supplier/installer, in effective and efficient working order.
- Do not use the equipment if you have any suspicion that it is not working properly.

Cleaning and Housekeeping

- Only keep the amount of material in the workplace that will be used that day.
- Clean the work equipment and work area daily.
- Spills are the major cause of dust or vapour in the workplace. Clean up all spills immediately.
- Don't clean up dusts with a brush or compressed air. Use a damp cloth or vacuum.
- Put lids on containers immediately after use.
- Store containers in a safe place where they won't get damaged. Store volatile liquids out of direct sunlight.
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- Dispose of empty containers safely.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Chemicals in hazard group S can damage the skin or eyes, or enter the body through the skin and harm you. Sheets **Sk100** and **Sk101** give good advice on how to keep the materials off your skin.
- Check the material safety data sheet or ask your supplier to find out what personal protective equipment is needed.
- Look after your protective equipment. When not in use, keep it clean and store it in a clean, safe place.
- Keep your protective equipment clean and change it at recommended intervals or when it is damaged.

Training and Supervision

- Tell your workers about any harmful properties of the substances they are working with and why they must use the controls and PPE provided.
- Teach them to handle chemicals safely. Check controls are working and ensure that they know what to do if something goes wrong.

- Have a system to check that the precautions you have put in place are being followed.