MAKROSAFE
HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD
Ensuring a safe work place!

Contact us today

Tel: 0861 444 777
Email: Contact@makrosafe.co.za

SAFETY ALERT 06 / 2013

SAFETY ALERT!

CARBON MONOXIDE

The purpose of this safety alert is to highlight the dangers associated with carbon monoxide and to suggest possible control measures to assist industry in managing the risk.

Background

In industry, the major source where carbon monoxide is generated is in engine exhaust. Petrol, diesel, LPG, and other similar types of fuel engines all release carbon monoxide. Some types of welding may also produce carbon monoxide

Contributing factors

Carbon monoxide (chemical abbreviation: CO) is a clear, colourless gas you can't smell or taste.
It's dangerous because it interferes with your body's ability to use oxygen. Even in small doses, carbon monoxide can kill you.
The first signs are headache and fatigue. More exposure can rapidly lead to loss of consciousness, arrested breathing, heart failure, and death.

Action Required

Never work alone in an area where carbon monoxide can accumulate.
When engines must be operated indoors, take these precautions:

- Make sure the area is well ventilated.
- Keep doors and windows open.
- Use fans to bring in fresh air if necessary.
- Limit running time and don't let engines idle.
- Monitor carbon monoxide levels regularly to make sure that ventilation is adequate.
- When necessary, use exhaust hoses or fans to draw engine exhaust out of the work area.
- Keep engines well-tuned. They will run cleaner and produce less carbon monoxide.
- When possible, use equipment that is electrically powered rather than petrol, diesel, or LPG powered.
- When other controls are inadequate, workers must wear respiratory protection. This means a supplied air respirator. You need a respirator attached to an independent supply of clean air.
- Whenever possible, operate engines outdoors. Welding machines and generators, for example, can be left outside - only the leads have to run into the building.

• FREE download of Safety Awareness Posters - ***www.makrosafe.co.za***
• FREE download of this Safety Alert - ***www.makrosafe.co.za***
• ACCREDITED Training Provider - Forklift; Overhead Crane; First Aid; OHS Legislation
• SAVE money - Let us manage all areas of your IOD.