

COSHH ASSESSMENT — WOOD DUST

Sawing, sanding, routing and machining timber, MDF and sheet materials

COSHH — SUBSTANCE ASSESSMENT

KD-COSHH-WD-002 Rev A0

COSHH 2002 reg 6: exposure is assessed BEFORE the work starts; reg 7: it is prevented, or adequately controlled, working down the hierarchy — eliminate, substitute, engineer, then RPE last. This assessment covers the substance family below; it is completed against the actual products (their safety data sheets alongside) and the actual task, and briefed to the people exposed. The current workplace exposure limit, where one applies, comes from EH40 and the SDS on the day — write it in below.

1 ASSESSMENT DETAILS

SITE / PROJECT

TASK ASSESSED

PRODUCTS IN USE (SDS TO HAND)

ASSESSED BY

DATE

2 THE SUBSTANCE — WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

WHERE IT IS MET: Cutting and sanding of softwood, hardwood, MDF, plywood and chipboard — bench saws, chop saws, routers, orbital sanders — and sweeping up afterwards. MDF dust carries both the wood dust and the resin binder.

THE HARM: Hardwood dust is a known cause of nasal cancer; both hardwood and softwood dusts cause asthma, dermatitis and long-term lung damage.

Wood dust asthma ends careers: once sensitised, tiny exposures trigger it.

3 EXPOSURE — ROUTES, PEOPLE, LIMIT

Inhalation — dust, fume, vapour or mist

Ingestion — hand to mouth

Skin and eye contact

Others affected — adjacent trades, occupiers, public

WHO IS EXPOSED, HOW LONG, HOW OFTEN

WEL / LIMIT (FROM EH40 AND THE SDS TODAY)

4 CONTROLS — IN THE REG 7 HIERARCHY, ALL IN PLACE BEFORE WORK STARTS

Machine off site or in a designated cutting area, not where others work

On-tool extraction on saws, routers and sanders, discharged to an M-class extractor — checked, emptied without a dust cloud

RPE to the RAMS — face-fitted FFP3 for sanding and machine work without full extraction

Vacuum housekeeping only — dry sweeping and blowing down with airlines prohibited

Wash and moisturise — wood dust dermatitis starts at the wrists

SITE-SPECIFIC CONTROLS FOR THIS TASK

RPE WORN (TYPE, AND FACE-FIT WHERE TIGHT-FITTING)

OTHER PPE FOR THIS SUBSTANCE

5 HEALTH SURVEILLANCE, HYGIENE AND FIRST AID

Health surveillance for regular machining work — respiratory questionnaire and skin checks. Report suspected occupational asthma; it is RIDDOR-reportable when diagnosed.

6 STORAGE, SPILLAGE AND DISPOSAL

Offcuts and dust bagged and covered in the waste stream; no burning on site. Extraction filters changed per the manufacturer with RPE worn.

WHERE IT IS STORED ON THIS SITE

SPILL RESPONSE AT THE WORK

7 SIGN-OFF AND BRIEFING

The assessment is complete when the people exposed have been briefed on it. Reassess when the product, task, quantity or location changes — not on an anniversary.

ASSESSOR — PRINTED NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

WORKFORCE BRIEFED (DATE / RECORD REF)

R REVISION HISTORY

Every revision of this document, and every review that found nothing to change. The revision on the front of this sheet is the one you are holding — check kubitdocs.com for the current one before use.

Rev	Date	Class	What changed	Authorised by
D0	2026-08-31	first-issue	First issue.	— not yet approved —
D1	2026-08-31	material	Actions the internal H&S director review. Lead reframed under CLAW 2002 and ACOP L132 with the COSHH reg 5 disapplication stated and limits prompted from CLAW; the silica harm line corrected to the defensible after-asbestos formulation; titles shortened so the header band prints in full.	— not yet approved —
A0	2026-08-31	review	Approved for issue by the author. Content unchanged from the reviewed draft; the draft status strip is removed. No independent third-party review has been carried out.	Author — director, UK principal contractor, SMSTS. Not an independent review.

Class: first-issue · material (the law, a control, a field or the scope changed — past buyers are notified) · editorial (wording or layout only) · review (checked, nothing changed) · withdrawal. Revision prefix D = draft, not approved and not for sale; A = approved for issue by the person named, on the date shown.