	ANC Foster Pty Ltd Safety Management System	Doc No:	ATMO
		Initial Issue Date:	27 Apr 2010
ATMOSPHERIC HAZARDS		Revision Date:	Initial Version
		Revision No.:	0
		Next Revision Date:	27 Apr 2011
Preparation: Safety Mgr	Authority: Director	Issuing Dept: Safety	Page: Page 1 of 3

Purpose

It is the intention of ANC Foster that no person at a place of work is exposed to an airborne concentration of an atmospheric contaminant that exceeds or breaches a legislated standard (see Exceedance of Atmospheric Contaminant Standards section below).

Scope

This program applies to all ANC Foster employees. When work is performed on a nonowned or operated site, the operator's program shall take precedence, however, this document covers ANC Foster employees and contractors and shall be used on owned premises, or when an operator's program doesn't exist or is less stringent.

Definitions

"atmospheric contaminant" means:

- a hazardous substance that occurs in the form of a fume, mist, gas, dust or vapour, or
- an asphyxiant, or
- nuisance dust to which persons may be exposed in the working environment.

"inspirable dust" means those airborne particles of dust that can be taken in through the nose or mouth during breathing.

"respirable fibre" means a fibrous particle with a diameter of less than 3 micrometres and a length of greater than 5 micrometres, with a length to width ratio of greater than 3:1 that can reach the deepest part of a lung.

"safe oxygen level" means a minimum oxygen content in air of 19.5% by volume under normal atmospheric pressure and a maximum oxygen content in air of 23.5% by volume under normal atmospheric pressure.

"synthetic mineral fibre" means any manufactured mineral fibre, including mineral woolrock (rockwool and slagwool), glasswool (including superfine glassfibre) and ceramic fibres.

"synthetic mineral fibre dust" means dust arising from a synthetic mineral fibre.


"TWA" (time-weighted average) means the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8-hour working day for a 5 day working week.

Procedure

Exceedance of Atmospheric Contaminant Standards

No ANC Foster employee shall be exposed to an airborne concentration of an atmospheric contaminant for any of the below:

- For atmospheric contaminants other than synthetic mineral fibre dust as determined in accordance with the documents entitled "Guidance Note on the Interpretation of Exposure Standards for Atmospheric

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Contaminants in the Occupational Environment [NOHSC: 3008]” and “Adopted National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment [NOHSC: 1003], as amended from time to time by amendments published in the Chemical Gazette of the Commonwealth of Australia.

- For synthetic mineral fibre dust if almost all the airborne mineral is fibrous (in addition to a respirable standard determined above referenced requirement) an exposure standard of 2 mg/m³ (TWA) of inspirable dust, but where the inspirable standard is not to take precedence over the respirable standard, or
- For dusts not otherwise classified—10mg/m³ (TWA) inspirable dust exposure standard applies.

ANC Foster must ensure that appropriate risk control measures are taken when atmospheres in a place of work contain an unsafe oxygen level.

Ventilation Design

A properly designed ventilation system is:

- Mechanical ventilation appropriate for the work being carried out is used to control atmospheric contaminants and that the ventilation is maintained regularly, and if a mechanical ventilation system is used to control exposure to a contaminant, the system:
 - shall be located as close as is practicable to the source of the contaminant to minimise the risk of inhalation by a person at work, and
 - be used for as long as the contaminant is present, and
 - be kept free from accumulations of dust, fibre and other waste materials and is maintained regularly, and
 - if the system is provided to control contaminants arising from flammable or combustible substances it shall be designed and constructed so as to prevent the occurrence of fire or explosion, and
- If a ducted ventilation system is used, an inspection point will be fitted at any place where blockages in the ventilation system are likely to occur.

Warning Signs


Any place of work where there is a risk of exposure to atmospheric contaminants or unsafe levels of oxygen must be isolated and the appropriate warning signs provided at the place.

By means of a risk assessment, the atmosphere at all work places, and at all means of access to and egress from those work places must be:

- In a fit state for working in or passing through, and
- Visually clear, and
- Not endanger the safety or health of any person.

The atmosphere and physical environment, to be in a fit state for working or passing through:

- Must be adequately oxygenated, and
- Must be subject to controls established to manage exposure to unsafe levels of contaminants.

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Atmospheric Monitoring

If a risk assessment indicates that monitoring of atmospheric contaminants should be undertaken at a work site ANC Foster shall ensure that:

- Appropriate monitoring is undertaken in accordance with a suitable procedure;
- The results of the monitoring are recorded;
- Any employee or other person working at a ANC Foster work site who may be or may have been exposed to an atmospheric contaminant that has been monitored is provided with the results of the monitoring; and
- The monitoring records are readily accessible to any such employee or person.