



Assessing Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

All employers have a duty and legal responsibility to risk assess workplace exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), where it has the potential to cause harm to health.

The Control of Electromagnetic Fields at Work (CEMFAW) Regulations (UK) 2016 aims to protect workers from exposure to electric and magnetic fields by providing a set of Action Levels (ALs) and Exposure Limit Values (ELVs).

Classed as a non-ionising radiation, EMFs are created when electrical energy is used. In domestic environments, EMFs are produced at low levels. However, sources in the workplace can produce much higher EMFs that can be harmful to employee health.

Health risks associated with exposure to EMF will depend upon the type of equipment being used and the field / frequency range emitted. Health effects can include direct effects such as vertigo, nausea or heating of body tissue, or indirect effects through interference with active medical implants such as pacemakers and defibrillators, or passive medical implants such as artificial joints or pins. EMF exposure can also pose a risk to expectant mothers.

Higher risk activities include those workplaces with electrical supplies carrying currents greater than 100A, workplaces undertaking welding or metal production, workplaces with magnetisers, demagnetisers or microwaves, and those workplaces involved in transport and medical activities.

OUR SERVICES

To comply with the guidance outlined in the CEMFAW Regulations, SOCOTEC's occupational hygiene team can support organisations in assessing, measuring and managing electromagnetic field sources across a number of industries.

SOCOTEC can:

- › Identify areas of exposure risk through site risk assessment and audits
- › Advise on implementing control measures to restrict exposure (including exclusion zoning)
- › Conduct measurement surveys of EMF alongside evaluation to Action Levels and Exposure Limit Criteria
- › Support with EMF plans and producing related policies

With years of experience in supporting employers and employees to understand workplace risk, our occupational hygienists are well equipped to help you manage and mitigate EMF exposure.

MORE ABOUT OUR SERVICES

For more information, please contact 0845 603 2112 or email salesuk@socotec.com