

HSG276 – States that Air Clearance tests (smoke tests) should be carried out as part of the annual LEV “Thorough Examination and Test”

Extract taken from:

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Isocyanate paint spraying

Safely managing spray booths and rooms

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“A thorough examination and test report should include smoke tests for clearance and leakage.”

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“Clearance time

How long the spray booth or room takes to clear

Many spray booth/room designers have focused on factors such as the number of air changes per minute that occur; the implication being that the more air changes the better for the booth/room.

For the sprayer, the most important issue is how the air flows within a booth/room and how long it takes to clear the invisible airborne paint mist. Carrying out a smoke test on a booth/room will allow you and your staff to see how air moves and how long it takes to clear.

Once spraying stops, the air passing through the booth/room will dilute and displace the invisible airborne paint mist and eventually remove it. The time taken for the fine paint mist to be removed is known as the ‘clearance time’. The time for your booth/room will depend on the design and the volume of air moving through it. Typically, a booth will clear in less than five minutes, but a room could take 20 minutes or longer.

Everyone involved must know how long their spray booth/room takes to clear.

A practical way to measure the clearance time is to carry out a smoke test”