

Ref. No: 2254
Date: 05/01/26
Subject: Formaldehyde exposure in surgery

REQUEST & RESPONSE

Under the Environmental Information Regulations (2004), please provide the following information relating to employee exposure to formaldehyde (formalin) in the Trust's ***operating/surgical theatres***.

Documents requested:

1. Please provide the current COSHH risk assessment(s) relating to formaldehyde (formalin) exposure for staff working in operating/surgical theatres, produced to meet the Trust's duties under COSHH Regulation 6.
2. Please provide copies of all formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring data held by the Trust for operating/surgical theatre staff for the last 12 months, including:
 - Fixed/static air monitoring results
 - Personal exposure or badge monitoring results (with personal data redacted as appropriate)

Please see attached

This request includes monitoring undertaken for any purpose, including baseline, verification, and/or investigation monitoring, in line with COSHH Regulation 10. It is noted that COSHH Regulation 10(5)(b) requires such records to be kept for a minimum of five years.

Questions:

3. How does the Trust prevent or control employee exposure to formaldehyde (formalin) in its operating/surgical theatres, including but not limited to engineering, procedural, and/or organisational controls?

Please see attached

4. Does the Trust undertake regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring in operating/surgical theatres? If so, please state the frequency.

Annually

5. Please state the total number of occasions on which regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring has been undertaken in operating/surgical theatres in the last 12 months.

One per site

6. If regular scheduled formaldehyde (formalin) exposure monitoring is **not** undertaken, please provide documentation held by the Trust that demonstrates the effectiveness of current controls and supports the decision that routine monitoring is not required. If no such documentation is held, please confirm how the Trust assures compliance with COSHH Regulations 7 and 10 in the absence of routine exposure monitoring.

Please see attached