

LEV USER TRAINING.....NOW YOU'VE GOT IT, CAN YOU WORK IT?

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You have done all the hard work, you have designed the system, manufactured it, installed it, commissioned it and tested it and shown that it's functioning effectively contain the contaminant. But now, how do you ensure that the operators continue to utilise it correctly so that adequate control is achieved? The answer to that is **training and education**.

How many people **actually** plan this in their specifications, to train operators once the installation is complete?

How often do we return to an installation, even a short period following its commissioning, to discover certain sections of the system have been isolated or switched off, dampers that you pre-set have been adjusted?

Unless the operators are educated on how the system is designed to work and its benefits then sometimes it is too easy for them to change things when they assume to be more proficient or beneficial for their one machine or area?

How often are branches isolated on the assumption that the full volume be conveyed to the point where required and not reduced by an increase in pressure due to the duct sizes?

exposure indicator lev
air-flow user
sash-height
capture-distance
shake-down gauge filter
reporting
procedure

All of this comes down to ensuring that the operators understand the process itself and the benefits of ensuring that the system always operates correctly.

Training is as important as the commissioning of the system to ensure that it continues to operate effectively and protects people and equipment.

As part of your process, ensure that within your commissioning or testing of the system you allow time to train operators on the correct use of the system and try to explain, without over complication, the benefits of the system operating as designed.



A good way to reinforce this with people is to associate the LEV with PPE so the operators understand how important it is to utilise the system as designed. No trained individual would think that its ok to modify their PPE, cut holes in their masks or remove sections of their protective footwear! If they understand the problems this would cause in an LEV system, then hopefully they will not attempt to modify the equipment without fully understanding it. Ensure that the operators understand full principles of the system and they are aware of how to operate it correctly.

Training should take them through normal practice to ensure that they switch the system on when operating equipment and machinery, monitor its operation, switch off when not required and ensure the correct maintenance and servicing is carried out.

Simplest operating procedures are quite often easily overlooked or incorrectly employed, not emptying the bins, or not removing collected material, switching the equipment off using the isolator instead of switching it off with a proper shut down sequence so the clean down / pulsing or shaking sequence does not occur.

Always ensure that correct operating and maintenance manuals are all supplied with any system and that there is a simple bullet point guidance for the operators to understand and implement. There is nothing worse than giving an operator a tome of a document and asking them to look after the equipment. A simple one-page bullet point list on an A4 piece of laminated paper adjacent to the machinery would be sufficient to ensure that under most circumstances it is operating correctly.

Simple things to cover:

- Pre use inspection of the equipment to ensure its fit for and ready to use
- How to turn on and off and when
- Hood positioning – why is it important?
- What to check and when to check
- How to tell if the system is working correctly – explain the airflow indicator
- How to recognise when the collection facility needs emptying
- How to empty the collection facility
- What the reporting procedure is if there are any issues.
- Location of the manual and where / whom to contact for equipment support .
(Another opportunity to wave your company flag !)

Make the check systems simple and ensure that the logbook for daily checklist is easy to fill in and easy to maintain. Don't forget, simple is less likely to break. So, try to ensure that you always cover training and routine maintenance as well as the operation of the equipment as part of your fundamental commissioning and handover system.

There is a legal requirement under COSHH Regulation 8 for employers to ensure that employees are trained on how to use control measures. We can help them.