

## General Ventilation: Open Bulk Storage

### Scope

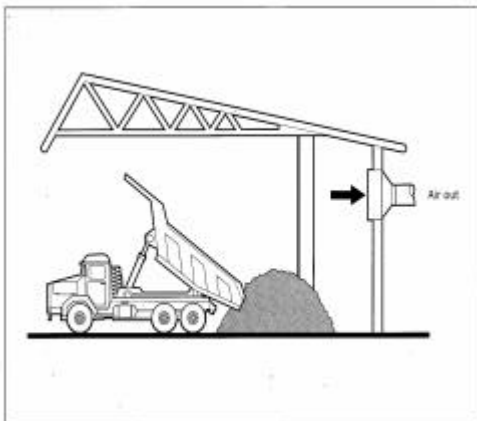
This control sheet is part of the ILO Chemical Control Toolkit and should be used when the toolkit identifies that a control approach 1 solution is appropriate. The sheet gives good practice advice on the open storage of large quantities of solids and includes storage in the open outside of a building. It is important all the points are followed. Some chemicals are flammable or corrosive and your controls must be suitable for those hazards too. Look at the safety data sheet for more information. Air cleaning equipment may be necessary before discharging exhaust air to the atmosphere. This sheet identifies the minimum standards you need to apply to protect your health. It should not be used to justify a lower standard of control than that which may be required for process control or control of other risks.

### Access

- Keep unnecessary people away from the work area. Ensure that no one is working close by downwind.

### Design and Equipment

- Don't have warehouse openings that face into the prevailing wind.
- Define a specific area for storage and put up signs.
  - Position indoor air extraction systems as close as possible to the source of dust.
  - Ensure that the size or number of fans is insufficient to remove the dirty air from the workplace (more than one fan may be needed). A minimum of 5 air changes an hour is recommended.
  - When working outdoors, take advantage of the wind to remove any dust generated away from you.
  - Keep vehicle cab doors and windows closed.
  - Clearly segregate different stockpiles.
  - Provide partitions to stop the spread of dust



in buildings.

- Provide tarpaulins or plastic covers for stockpiles not in use.

### Examination, Testing and Maintenance

- Keep any fans or extractors in good working order.
- Every day, check that the fans are working when they are switched on. A ribbon strip attached to the exhaust side of the fan cage can be used as an indicator that the fan is working.

## **Cleaning and Housekeeping**

- Clean the work equipment and work area daily.
- Spills are the major cause of dust or vapour in the workplace. Clean up all spills immediately.
- Don't clean up dusts with a brush or compressed air. Use a damp cloth or vacuum.
- Put lids on containers immediately after use.
- Store containers in a safe place where they won't get damaged.
- Store volatile liquids out of direct sunlight.

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Chemicals in hazard group S can damage the skin or eyes, or enter the body through the skin and harm you. Sheets Sk100 and Sk101 give good advice on how to keep the materials off your skin.
- Check the material safety data sheet or ask your supplier to find out what personal protective equipment is needed.
- Look after your protective equipment. When not in use, keep it clean and store it in a clean, safe place.
- Keep your protective equipment clean and change it at recommended intervals or when it is damaged.

## **Training and Supervision**

- Tell your workers about any harmful properties of the substances they are working with and why they must use the controls and PPE provided.
- Teach them to handle chemicals safely.
- Check controls are working and ensure that they know what to do if something goes wrong.
- Have a system to check that the precautions you have put in place are being followed.