

# 4warned newsflash

## HSE responds to welding fume cancer research

There has been a change in the HSE enforcement expectations in relation to the control of exposure to welding fumes, including that from mild steel welding.

New scientific evidence from the International Agency for Research on Cancer states that exposure to mild steel welding fumes can cause lung cancer, and possibly kidney cancer in humans. Consequently, the Workplace Health Expert Committee has endorsed the reclassification of mild steel welding fume as a human carcinogen.

HSE's response to the findings of the research has been an immediate strengthening of their enforcement expectations for all welding fumes, including mild steel welding, as general ventilation does not achieve the necessary control.

4see believes that the changes will affect any businesses in regards to welding, be it a welding contractor, or a client of a welding business. Therefore, it is important that all look to consider how the change in the status of weld fume as a contributor to cancer will affect current controls.

**For more information on HSE's response, including their new enforcement expectations and what you need to do to reduce your risk, please visit their site [here](#), or contact us at [enquiry@4see.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@4see.co.uk).**

