



## **WELDING FUMES/RESPIRATORY HAZARDS**

The fumes are composed of very small, solid metal oxide particles that form during the welding process. The majority of the fumes (90-95%) come from the filler metal used, so the chemical content of the welding fumes is the same as that of the filler metal.

Short-term effects of welding fumes

The short-term effects of overexposure to welding fumes include irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, shortness of breath, bronchitis, increased risk of infection of the respiratory tract, fluid in the lungs and a flu-like illness often called metal fume fever.

Long-term effects of welding fumes Welders' health is affected in the long term in that they face a 30 to 40 percent increased risk of lung cancer. The exact reason for this is still under careful study worldwide. It may be due to the fact that many welders are heavy smokers and are often exposed to asbestos and/or welding fumes.

The most likely carcinogenic components of welding fumes are hexavalent chromium and nickel. Exposure to manganese often results in damage to the central nervous system. The link between this nerve damage and welding fumes is currently under investigation.

### RECOMMENDATION

Always use respiratory protection equipment suited to the type of welding you are carrying out.

### **SPARKS AND SPLASHES**

Welding normally gives rise to atomised sparks and splashes. If the shielding gas does not have a sufficiently high argon content, larger quantities of sparks and splashes arise and may even be in the form of drops.

If drops, sparks or splashes hit the welder, e.g. during welding from underneath or if the welder is lying down, they may cause burns.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Use all-over protective clothing if there is a risk of being hit by large quantities of drops, sparks or splashes.

### **UV RADIATION**

Overexposure to UV radiation affects health, and welders are the largest occupational group exposed to UV radiation.

Short-term effects of UV radiation
Skin sunburn. Damage accumulates during the day
and does not become visible until a few hours later.
Welders' flash, also known as arc-eye and snowblindness. This is a painful irritation of the cornea and
the conjunctiva (the membrane connecting the eyeball
with the inner eyelid). It feels like 'sand in the eye', and
can be felt at the slightest touch. UVB is the principal
cause of 'sunburn of the eye'.

The eye is more sensitive than the skin to UV radiation because it lacks the skin's outer layer and protective pigment. Symptoms appear from six to 24 hours after exposure and usually disappear within the following 48 hours

No permanent damage to the eyes results, unless the exposure has been severe.

### Long-term effects

Damage to the retina may ultimately result in loss of vision. This may be caused by UV radiation in people who have had an eye lens surgically removed, for example as a result of a cataract. Such damage to the retina can be prevented by the use of UV-absorbing glasses or the implantation of UV-absorbing lenses. In the normal eye, the retina is protected from UV injury because the vitreous body filters out UV radiation.

Recent research indicates that exposure to UV radiation can adversely affect the immune system.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Always use a welding filter suited to the type of welding being carried out.

# RESPIRATORY PROTECTION IN THE HIGHEST PROTECTION CLASS

Respiratory protection is divided into two main groups:

Filter protection	Breathing apparatus
Breathing air passes through a filter which purifies it. (May only be used with normal oxygen content)	Breathing apparatus supplied with compressed air. Portable respiratory devices

If you are welding in a confined or poorly ventilated space, good filter protection is not sufficient. You also need respiratory protection supplied with compressed air in order not to put your health at risk. Mediumheavy work requires an average air consumption of 50-70 l/min.

## HOW GOOD IS MY RESPIRATORY PROTECTION?

To state the protective effect of the respiratory protection, you can calculate the protection factor on the basis of measurements. If the concentration of a substance inside the mask is a twentieth of what it is outside the mask, the protection factor of the respiratory protection is 20.

1,000 particles/cm3 (outside respiratory protection)

= Protection factor 20

50 particles/cm3 (inside respiratory protection)

### **ASSIGNED PROTECTION FACTOR - APF**

The Assigned Protection Factor (APF) is based on measurements made in actual workplaces on actual people at work. This factor is somewhat lower than the Nominal Protection Factor, but the APF corresponds more closely to reality, as it is measured in actual working situations.

### **NOMINAL PROTECTION FACTOR**

The Nominal Protection Factor (NPF) is based on measurements made in the laboratory.



### FIND YOUR SYSTEM





SR 591 | WELDING SHIELD is design for use either by itself or in combination with a respiratory protection system. The welding shield is designed for easy use and operation. Adjustable head harness for best comfort.

The SR 591 can be equipped with different types of welding filters. To get the best and appropriate respiratory protection you can choose to use it with either SR 900 half mask with remote filter holder SR 905 or with our powered fan unit SR 500 or SR 700 in the highest protection level (TM3). You can also use it with our SR 507 compressed air attachment in class 3A/3B.

SR 593 | WELDING SHIELD is design for use either by itself or in combination with a respiratory protection system. The welding shield is designed for easy use and equipped with a flip-up visor. The flip-up design gives the user an excellent eye protection and allows the user to grind and carry out other tasks without raising the welding shield. Adjustable head harness designed for best comfort.

The SR 593 can be equipped with different types of welding filters. To get the best and appropriate respiratory protection you can choose to use it with either SR 900 half mask with remote filter holder SR 905 or with our powered fan unit SR 500 or SR 700 in the highest protection level (TM3). You can also use it with our SR 507 compressed air attachment in class 3A/3B.



### FIND YOUR SYSTEM





SR 592 | WELDING SHIELD is design for use with a respiratory protection system. The welding shield is designed for easy use and operation. Easy and adjustable head harness for best comfort.

The SR 592 can be equipped with different types of welding filters. To get the best and appropriate respiratory protection you can choose to use it with our powered fan unit SR 500 or SR 700 in the highest protection level (TH3). You can also use it with our SR 507 compressed air attachment in class 3A/3B.

SR 594 | WELDING SHIELD is design for use with a respiratory protection system. The welding shield is designed for easy use and equipped with a flip-up visor. The flip-up design gives the user an excellent eye protection and allows the user to grind and carry out other tasks without raising the welding shield. Adjustable head harness designed for best comfort.

The SR 594 can be equipped with different types of welding filters. To get the best and appropriate respiratory protection you can choose to use it with our powered fan unit SR 500 or SR 700 in the highest protection level (TH3). You can also use it with our SR 507 compressed air attachment in class 3A/3B.

