

# **CASE STUDY**

## **VOC ASSESSMENT WORKPLACE EXPOSURE**



## Background

Solvwaste Environmental Ltd were contracted to carry out a workplace exposure assessment on a volatile organic compound (VOC) and determine if the exposure was within the defined limits as set by the HSE.

The operational site is a small engineering company that use solvents for their degreasing processes. This assessment was required to be carried out in line with their legal obligation to provide correct liability insurance cover.

## Assessment

In this case, the most appropriate assessment was for the operators to wear chemical absorption badges for a defined period of time. In this manner, we could calculate the exposure of the solvent as a time weighted average. Workplace exposure of operators is defined as a time weighted average.

Each operator involved in this trial wore a separate badge for each day and the trial was repeated to ensure consistency.

## Analysis

After each time period, the badges were sealed to prevent further absorption of solvents etc.

Analysis of the absorbed solvent was carried out by an accredited laboratory – approved to analyse these types of badges.

## Outcome

Results of the analysis clearly demonstrated that exposure of the solvent to their operators was significantly lower than the defined limit as set by the HSE. The company clearly understand their obligations to their staff in relation to workplace exposure and have put in place operational activities that minimise such exposure.