



Welding fume control tool* – What's your score?

Welding fumes are dangerous and can cause short-term and long-term health issues including: acute bronchitis, airway irritation, occupational asthma, metal fume fever, pneumonitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cancers, and pneumoconiosis.

This simple welding fume control tool will give you a quick understanding of the type of control requirements that are necessary for your business to implement, to create a safe, healthy workplace. Give it a go now:

1. In each section, pick the description that best describes your work and note the correlating points
2. Add together your points from each section to reveal your overall score

Example: TIG Welding is carried out on manganese steel in a confined space.

The weighting factors are 4 + 10 + 24.

The total of 38 indicates that local exhaust ventilation is required.

*Welding Fume Control Tool created by Work Safe NZ

Process	Points
Submerged arc welding (remote); laser cutting and welding; micro plasma; Gas cutting (remote operations).	0
Submerged arc welding (manual); submerged arc welding (multi arcs).	2
Brazing (manual operation); TIG (manual operations); gas welding and cutting (manual); silver soldering (manual); resistance spot welding (manual); plasma cutting (under water table); plasma arc welding; MIG (remote operation); resistance seam welding (remote operation); electroslag welding.	4
MIG (hand held); MMA; Resistance seam welding (manual operation); thermit welding; electrogas welding.	7
Arc cutting; plasma arc gouging; air arc gouging; flux cored arc welding (manual and remote operation).	9
Plasma arc cutting	15

Fume group	Points
Iron, aluminium, tin, titanium with < 5% of group B or C < 0.05% of group D.	0
Copper, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, silver, tungsten, zinc. Flux fumes such as fluorides, rosin, phosphoric acid, zinc chloride and boric acid.	10
Barium, chromium, cobalt, lead, nickel, ozone, vanadium, phosgene, organic fume.	20
Beryllium, Cadmium.	55

Location	Points
Outdoors	0
Open	12
Limited	16
Confined	24

Control Requirements Scoring	
< 9 or 9	Natural Ventilation
> 9 to 21	Mechanical ventilation
> 21 to 54	Local exhaust ventilation
> 54	Local exhaust ventilation and respiratory protection.

Now you've got your score, get in touch with RMI NZ to see how we can help you meet your control requirements.

DDI 06 350 1285
E ricky@rmi.nz
W www.rmi.nz