

LEL, or LFL

Lower explosive limit, or lower flammable limit, of a vapor or gas; the lowest concentration (lowest percentage of the substance in air) that will produce a flash of fire when an ignition source (heat, arc or flame) is present. At concentrations lower than the LEL, the mixture is too “lean” to burn. Also see “UEL.”

Lesion

Any damage to a tissue.

Leukemia

A group of malignant blood diseases distinguished by overproduction of white blood cells.

Leukopenia

A serious reduction in the number of white blood cells.

Lfm

Linear feet per minute, a unit of air velocity.

Local Exhaust

A system for capturing and exhausting contaminants from the air at the point where the contaminants are produced (welding, grinding, sanding, other processes or operations). Also see General Exhaust.

Lymph Node

Small oval bodies with a gland-like structure scattered throughout the body in the course of the lymph vessels. Also known as lymphatic nodes, lymph glands, and lymphatic glands.

M

Meter is a unit of length in the metric system. One meter is about 39 inches.

m³

Cubic meter is a metric measure of volume, approximately 35.3 cubic feet or 1.3 cubic yards.

Maceration

Softening of the skin by action of a liquid.

Malaise

A feeling of general discomfort, distress or uneasiness; an out-of-sorts feeling.

Malignant

Tending to become progressively worse and to result in death.

Mammary

Pertaining to the breast.

Mechanical Exhaust

A powered device, such as a motor-driven fan or air stream venturi tube for exhausting contaminants from a workplace, vessel or enclosure.

Mechanical Filter Respirator

A respirator used to protect against airborne particulate matter like dusts, mists, metal fume, and smoke. Mechanical filter respirators do not provide protection against gases, vapors, or oxygen deficient atmospheres.

Melanoderma

Abnormal darkening of the skin.

Melting Point

The temperature at which a solid substance changes to a liquid state.