



# CARE GUIDANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS ON BEST PRACTICE

**LEVEL 3**

Sanders

# SANDERS

## INTRODUCTION

This is a level 3 document in the ECFIA CARE Guidance series and should be read in conjunction with the level 1 document "Working with HTIW – Effective Risk Management".

## WHAT IS THE CARE PROGRAMME?

ECFIA's Controlled And Reduced Exposure (CARE) Programme is an important part of the Product Stewardship Programme. It allows employers to proactively minimize fibrous dust exposure and thus protect workers' health.

## WHAT ARE THE CARE GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS?

These documents form a comprehensive library of information on the safe handling and use of HTIW products. They have been written by industry experts and are designed to give customers of ECFIA members helpful information to put in place effective controls to minimise exposure to airborne fibres. This series of documents will progressively grow as new documents are produced.

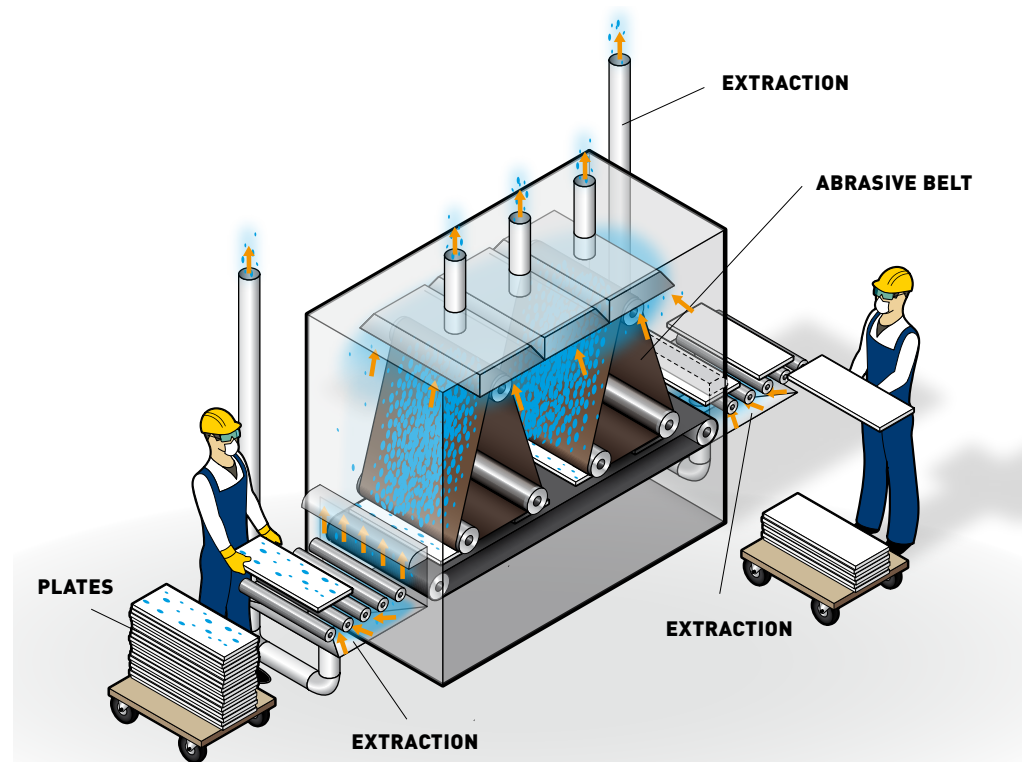
**Level 1 guidance document:** "Working with HTIW - Effective risk management"

**Level 2 guidance documents:** Risk management measures applicable to HTIW

**Level 3 guidance documents:** Examples of specific applications

## SANDING

Sanding machines are high powered machines that produce high velocity dust emissions when used on dry HTIW materials such as formed boards and shapes. The dust must be adequately controlled to ensure workers' safety. This Level 3 document in the CARE Guidance series highlights some of the ways this can be done.



## CONTROL OF SANDING OPERATIONS

Sanders are generally used during finishing operations to re-surface formed shapes and boards. Where practical, the sanding operation should be completely enclosed and the dust extracted at source. Some examples of sanders with varying levels of local exhaust ventilation (LEV) are shown below. In all cases, generated dust must be removed from the workers' breathing zone.



*Enclosed Sanding Machine*



*Open Sanding Machine*



*Partially Enclosed Sander with extraction*



*Vertical Belt Sander at take off*

In addition to enclosure and LEV on the sanding machine, there is also the need for an extracted down-draught table to further reduce the risk of dust exposure of workers handling the finished products as they leave the machine. The down-draught table helps to remove excess dust from the finished piece before it is handled by the worker.

Despite these precautions, after the sanding operation some dust may still remain on the surface of the machined pieces which can become airborne and create an exposure issue for the worker handling them. To combat this, handling should be kept to a minimum and workers should take extra care to try not to liberate dust. When packing machined pieces, the use of spacers should be considered to separate the pieces and prevent them knocking and rubbing against each other, thus avoiding further dust creation. If possible, the use of an extraction unit should be considered during handling and packing procedures to capture any generated dust and draw it away from the worker.