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Commission VIII Statement -

Health hazard from exposure to electromagnetic fields in welding.



Furnished by G H G McMillan, Chairman



Statement of Commission VIII

Health hazards from exposure to electromagnetic fields in welding

The question of possible adverse health effects of electromagnetic fields has been a matter of public discussion for some time but remains unanswered. Research continues.

Electric welding equipment and power sources produce electromagnetic fields.

- These may affect some cardiac pacemakers.
- There is no proof of any other adverse health effects.
- Nevertheless, it is prudent to take the following steps to minimise occupational exposure as far as is reasonably practicable.
 - Maximise the distance of the worker's body from the electric power source and the welding equipment.
 - In electric arc welding, route the electrode and work cables together.
 - Do not allow the electrode lead or any electric cable round the body.
 - Do not allow the workers body to be between the electrode cable and any other electric cable. Keep all cables together on one side or the other.

Commission VIII will keep the question of health effects of electromagnetic fields under constant review.

Statement of Commission VIII (HEALTH & SAFETY)

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