



WORKING FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE



## Solutions

**RESEARCH CONSULTING SERVICES**

Multi-disciplinary specialists in Occupational and Environmental Health and Hygiene

# Independence Integrity Authority

## Why use the IOM?

The Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM) is one of the UK's leading independent providers of health and safety solutions to the public sector, industry, commerce and professional bodies. We have a wealth of scientific and medical expertise, enabling us to provide practical solutions to a broad spectrum of occupational and environmental health concerns.

Whether your requirement is for multidisciplinary research, strategic advice, expert opinion, on-site measurement and monitoring or laboratory analysis, the IOM can help.

# Health in the workplace

According to the World Health Organization, workplace fatalities, injuries and illness cost around 4-5% of worldwide GDP and only 10-15% of workers have access to basic occupational health services.

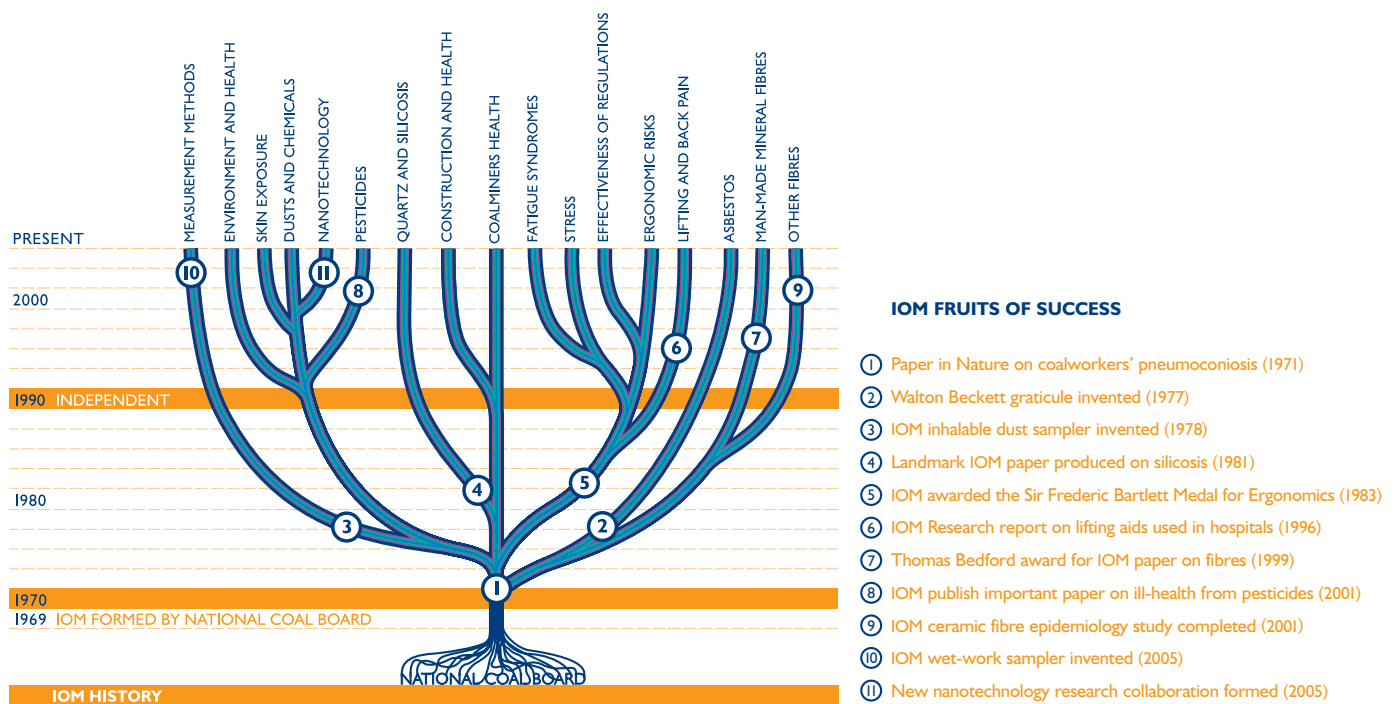
Every year in the UK more than 2 million people suffer ill health which they attribute to factors at work, and 40 million working days are lost to business. Over the same period, specialist doctors see 20,000 new cases of occupational ill-health, and several thousand people die from diseases linked to their work. The cost to the UK economy could be as much as £20 billion annually.

The pattern of workplace injury and illness may have changed over the decades, but the basic problem has not gone away. The demand for solutions to these human health questions remains as strong as ever.

## Total Health Solutions

IOM Solutions are underpinned by an unrivalled body of knowledge, and more than four decades of published research.

Founded in the 1960s to study the health of mineworkers, the IOM carried out landmark research into the health effects of coal mine dust, paving the way for the setting of workplace exposure standards across the globe, and establishing new standards for the conduct of workplace epidemiological studies. In the years that followed, the IOM extended its research efforts to the study of other dusts and fibres, notably quartz, asbestos and man-made mineral fibres.



## RESEARCH

**IOM RESEARCH** undertakes studies across a wide range of occupational and environmental health issues and addresses diseases such as cancer, asthma, dermatitis and neurological conditions. Our research has led to:

- improved control of hazardous substances
- improved understanding of disease mechanisms
- the establishment of national and international exposure standards
- the development of new sampling methods and instruments
- the development of exposure modelling techniques
- the development of new analytical methods



## How we can help

Today's IOM provides a range of health and safety solutions encompassing many diseases and risk factors. Our work includes:

- fundamental research
- strategic reviews of published work
- expert advice and consulting on specific issues
- laboratory analysis
- on-site assessment of potentially hazardous materials or working conditions.

## Applications

The IOM's Solutions-based approach applies to subjects as broad as **sickness absence management**, embracing:

- research into workplace stress, and the development of tools for its management
- development, implementation and evaluation of software for monitoring and managing sickness absence
- consultant physician services for assessing fitness to work
- provision of expert witnesses for legal cases involving industrial injury or illness
- occupational hygiene and health surveillance services, designed to manage workplace risks and to monitor the effects of exposures on the health of workers

We are concerned with exposure to chemicals, particles, fibres, fumes, noise and vibration, as well human factors such as workplace ergonomics and occupational psychology. We undertake exposure assessment, measurement of health effects and risk assessment, and give advice on the control of exposure and personal protection.

Our teams of scientists, technicians and consultants include a number with international reputations in their fields of expertise. So whatever your occupational health concerns, we shall give you access to real experts, who will listen, understand, and focus on finding the solutions you need.

Similar principles apply to more specific examples of workplace ill health such as **dermatitis**:

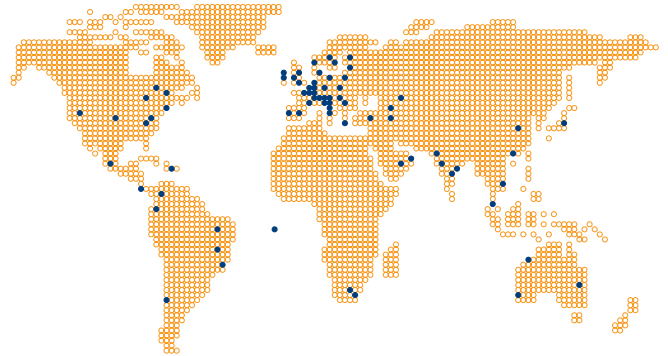
- research leading to the development of sampling and measurement methods for chemicals on the skin
- research into the causes of occupational dermatitis, and the effectiveness of prevention measures
- consulting services to the engineering sector on the risks posed by metalworking fluids
- expert witness provision
- advice on protective measures and the use of alternative agents
- health surveillance for workers susceptible to dermal exposure
- COSHH assessments relating directly to dermal exposure and health risks
- testing of personal protective equipment
- analysis of material to identify chemicals that may cause dermatitis

## CONSULTING

**IOM CONSULTING** gives you direct access to expert knowledge, and offers:

- desk-based reviews of published research to address specific questions about workplace or environmental health and safety issues
- expert advice to industry: quantitative risk assessments; exposure modelling; control measures; health effects
- expert witness service, for cases of industrial injury or ill health
- health impact assessments
- physician services, to evaluate work-related absence and fitness to work
- training courses and seminars





## Assured quality and expert knowledge

The IOM is recognised internationally as a voice of independence and integrity in occupational and environmental health. Our reputation is built on more than 30 years of outstanding scientific achievement, and we maintain this pre-eminence by continuing to invest in a world-class team of scientific, technical and support staff.

IOM scientists provide advice to government and government agencies and many are members of expert committees reporting to the Health and Safety Executive, the Department of Health and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Our work is of the highest quality, meeting or surpassing regulatory standards, and many of our services are UKAS accredited.

Whatever you ask us to do, we are committed to communicating our findings clearly, and on time.

## Our clients

IOM customers include government departments and policymakers, industry associations, public sector organisations, private sector companies, property managers and the legal profession.

Whilst much of our work is for UK and EU customers, we have customers as far afield as the USA, Australia and Asia. Our UK and world wide network of collaborators includes universities, government laboratories and other independent research and consulting organisations.

The IOM is a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health.

## SERVICES

**IOM SERVICES** offers a comprehensive range of on-site and laboratory services:

- asbestos management
- assessment of personal protective equipment (PPE), including respirator face-fit testing
- clinical occupational health services: medical examinations, pre-employment medicals, health surveillance
- ergonomics services, including display screen equipment (DSE) and manual handling risk assessments
- laboratory services, including mineralogy, analytical chemistry and immunology
- occupational hygiene services, including COSHH and noise assessments



## Contacting IOM Solutions:

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