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Hygienic limit values and gas alarm requirements at Domsjö Fabriker

As of August 2018 new hygienic limit values apply under AFS 2018:1. At Domsjö Fabriker, this has primarily entailed more stringent requirements regarding sulphur dioxide (SO₂) levels in factory areas. These levels are exceeded in our premises from time to time, which has led us to amend our personal protective equipment rules for both our own and external personnel.

To be allowed to enter our mill premises, everyone must carry gas alarms that detect both sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) and a gasmask with ABEK filters. This applies to all premises except screening, lignin packaging and waterworks/sluices. Domsjö Fabriker has equipped its personnel with Ventis MX4 gas alarms but external personnel are not required to have gas alarms of the same make. If you have gas alarms of the same make, external personnel can use the bump and calibration stations that Domsjö Fabriker has installed to calibrate their gas alarms.

In the bio-treatment and boiler room basement departments, around boiler 11 and cooking liquid preparation, gas alarms are needed that detect both sulphur dioxide and hydrogen sulphide. In the remaining mill areas, except for screening, lignin packaging and waterworks, it is sufficient for gas alarms to detect sulphur dioxide. Domsjö Fabriker, however, feels that external personnel should have gas alarms that detect both gases since they may need to move around inside the various mill areas. It is left to the external contractor to decide whether a gas alarm that detects one gas (hence necessitating 2 gas alarms) or a gas alarm that detects multiple gases is best.

Gasmasks to be carried inside the premises may be of a simpler type, evacuation masks if used only for evacuation in the case of gas emissions. However, if work is to be done in a gas environment, gasmasks need to be of the full-face type, fan-assisted respiratory protection or respiratory protection via air hoses. No work may be carried out wearing a half-face mask since this type does not protect the eyes but is only intended for use in an evacuation. Should a gas emission occur so that the gas alarm gives an alert, gasmasks are to be put on and personnel are to leave the location until the discharge has stopped or the gas has dissipated. Contact with the control room to report an emission should be made immediately. If the evacuation alarm sounds, gasmasks are to be put on and the department immediately evacuated to the assembly point to await information. No department may be entered where the evacuation alarm is sounding.