

Food Standards Agency 6th July 2006.

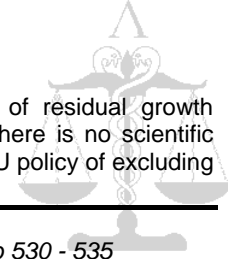
Cow from same herd as BSE infected animal has entered food chain

Cattle from the same herd as a confirmed BSE case are described as cohort animals. The rule is that cohort animals should all be destroyed. In this case there was uncertainty as to the cohort status of the specific cow as records were not in the best of order. Failure to keep accurate records can lead to disproportionately expensive losses to first and third parties.

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VPC report on growth hormones in meat

The veterinary products committee has reviewed the evidence on safe levels of residual growth hormones in human food. It concludes that there are gaps in the evidence but there is no scientific justification for banning the import of meat produced using growth hormones. The EU policy of excluding imports of hormone assisted meat is likely to remain in force.



R Boylstein et al. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* (2006) Vol.3 p 530 - 535

Diacetyl Emissions and Airborne Dust from Butter Flavorings Used in Microwave Popcorn Production

Butter flavourings are currently deployed as liquid or paste. Application produces high but short term exposures to diacetyl, acetic acid, acetoin, butyric acid and others. Powder applications produce much lower environmental exposures to these chemicals but inhalation of respirable powders could be more risky than vapour inhalation. In the absence of exposure standards, powder formulations could be adopted but with inadequate controls.

ME Flanagan et al. *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* (2006) Vol.3 p 144 – 152

Silica Exposure on Construction Sites: Results of an Exposure Monitoring Data Compilation Project

High levels of respirable quartz are experienced during certain work tasks on a construction site. The authors determined whether or not face masks would provide sufficient protection, according to US exposure standards. The results can be summarised in the following figure:

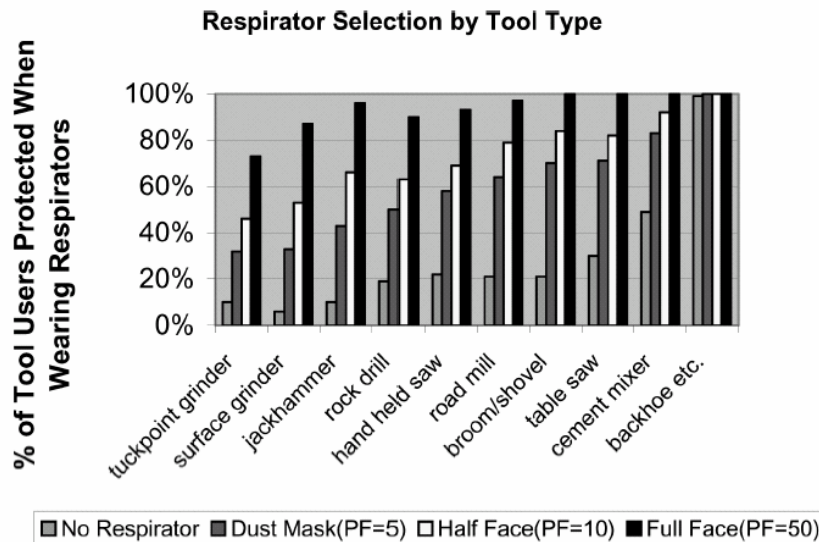


FIGURE 1. Percentage of tool users who would be protected if wearing respirators (all samples >6 hours duration)