



CASE STUDY

EXTRACTION ARMS CONTRIBUTE TO THE ISO 14001 & 26000 POLICY



THE CHALLENGE

Metal fabrication is one of Mimault's core businesses. This French company has a couple of welding workshops in its production facility. Most of the welders work with small metal workpieces. To use the floor space of the entire workshop optimally, all workplaces are relatively small as well. This means that many welders can work simultaneously on site.

One of the consequences was that all welding fumes accumulated into the workshop and generated a 'blue layer' inside the building, just below the roof. In order to remove this vast amount of welding fumes the employees opened all doors to create natural ventilation. Nevertheless, it was obvious that the open doors did not create enough general ventilation to remove all welding fumes. Mimault needed a professional extraction and filtration system to create a clean, safe and healthy working environment for its employees.

Mimault Tôlerie Industrielle is situated in Chapelle-Saint-Laurent, Deux-Sèvres in France. It is a family company and it has been established in 1995. Originally it is a sheet metal factory. Its main processes still are the welding activities of thin metal sheets. Mimault employs about 25 people. Its ISO 14001 *Environmental management standard* and ISO 26000 *Guidance on Social Responsibility* approach makes it a professional company.



« **Now, we can leave the doors closed and still have a clean working environment!** »

QUOTE BY Mr Philippe Ménard, Managing Director of Mimault Tôlerie Industrielle.

TESTIMONIAL

« We are a committed company to the ISO 14001 and are trying to get the ISO 26000 certificate. It gives us guidance. We feel that it is our responsibility to respect both the environment and our employees. Therefore an unhealthy working environment could never be part of our policy. »

« In the past we always opened the doors of the building to get rid of the vast amount of welding fumes. Still we had a lot of welding fumes inside the building. Now, we can leave the doors closed and still have a clean working environment. Our employees notice the difference and are very satisfied with the extraction arms of Plymovent. They even feel better at work! »

THE SOLUTION

The challenge set by Mimault was crystal clear : « The welding fumes inside the product facility needed to be removed as effectively as possible. » Plymovent opted for a multiple arm system. A system solution that can cover many small workplaces. As the workbenches are fixed workplaces, the extraction arms could be installed easily, right above the workbenches. As Plymovent offers various extraction arms, each workplace was optimised. Three different types of extraction arms were installed. The KUA-3 (3 meters), KUA-4 (4 meters) and the FlexMax. The FlexMax can reach up to 5 meters.

Source extraction is always the most effective way to remove welding fumes. In the first place it protects the welder and secondly the welding fumes do not get a chance to linger and accumulate throughout the workshop. They are extracted into the extraction arms straight away, even before it reaches the breathing zone of the welder.

All extraction arms are installed to one central fan and filtration unit. The filtration unit requires little maintenance which is always a big advantage in a production environment where cleaning is already part of your daily working activities. Additionally, the silencer makes sure that the noise level stays within legal limits.



MAIN BENEFITS

- All welding fumes are removed effectively, resulting in a healthy working environment.
- Maintenance-friendly system, the filtration unit makes sure that the filter cartridges are cleaned automatically by its RamAir technology.
- ISO 14001, thanks to the extraction and filtration system of Plymovent, Mimault strengthens her commitment towards the environment and its employees.



SYSTEM FACTS

Products

Multiple arm system

- 3 x FlexMax, extraction arm
- 9 x KUA-3, extraction arm of 3 m incl. lightning HL-20/24-160
- 1 x KUA-4, extraction arm of 4 m incl. lightning HL-20/24-160

Downdraft table

- 1 x Draftmax Eco

Central filtration system

- 1 x MultiDust® Bank (MDB-12)

Central fan

- 1 x SIF-1500 (capacity 12,000 m³/h)

Year of installation

- 2012

Application

- TIG welding
- MIG/MAG welding
- Electrode welding

FR-02

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