



CDT GROUP

EXAIR... CUTTING OFFICE EQUIPMENT EMISSIONS

Background

The CDT Group supplies and maintains photocopiers, printers and fax machines. We have in excess of 2,000 clients with over 8,000 office machines.

Following one clients' request to 'deal with a smelly dirty copier', we investigated the worldwide market place, looking for a form of universal filter. This led us to a company in Denmark that have been providing Health and Safety Office solutions for over 15 years. This company had a portable product that, we felt, could be adapted to our requirement.

After many months of visits, discussions with manufacturing, negotiations, redesign, UK trials, UK market tests, H&S investigations, machine monitoring, sample needs analysis...eXair was born.

The CDT Group have currently invested over £200,000 in bringing this product to the UK market and forming eXair, our Health and Safety division. All costs have been borne by the privately owned company, no grants have been applied for or utilised in any way in the development or marketing of these products.

The eXair CopyBox and Printbox units consist of a sealed unit incorporating an electric fan, the units connect directly over the exhaust vents of the copier, printer or fax and 'suck' the expelled exhaust. The 'emission' is then passed through a 3-part filter. The filter traps all paper and toner dust particles and 'breaks down' the hazardous ozone, VOCs and associated by-products of the printing process.

Our product has featured in many H&S journals such as European Health and Safety, Safety and Health Practitioner and QUBE Magazine. We have had an editorial published in 'What to Buy for Business' and have featured in many 'trade' magazines.

Current users of the eXair filter systems range from Government bodies to small schools and blue chip businesses to smaller companies. Each share the common goal of providing the best working conditions for their staff, while improving the environment.

One such client, Hiscox PLC, have recently won the top award in a scheme recognising City businesses commitment to the local environment. The Clean City Awards are given as part of an annual scheme established by the Corporation of London. Hiscox state "we want to offer our staff the best possible working environment; eXair filtration systems help us provide it."

The vast majority of our clients notice an immediate difference to the air quality in their office space following the installation of the eXair units.



Environmental Best Practice

Laurent Perrier have commented, “The eXair unit has provided us with an excellent solution at a reasonable cost and I would certainly recommend the units to anyone interested in eliminating unwanted emissions or improving the air quality in and around their office equipment.”

The longer-term benefits for the environment and individuals alike are staggering. It is estimated that for every 1,000 units in operation the environment would benefit from 7 kilos less direct ozone emission per annum, the benefits to the nearby staff who would usually breath in this and other pollutants is obvious.

LHC, an independent Health and Safety Resource Centre, report that “Photocopiers and laser printers are safe when used occasionally, serviced regularly and positioned with adequate ventilation (it is suggested that the area, where the office product is positioned, should benefit from a complete air change every hour). But if the machines are badly positioned, poorly maintained and used frequently or for long runs, there are risks to health, ranging from irritated eyes, nose and throat to dermatitis, headaches, premature ageing and reproductive and cancer hazards. Proper ventilation and maintenance are essential in eliminating hazards.”

Our advice to clients (to adhere to H&S legislation, manufacturers’ installation recommendations and taking into account all research available) is that all equipment is installed in an area with a forced air change every hour, that no staff are situated within 3 meters of the machine and that no machine is installed in a room of less than 25 cubic meters unless ventilated as above.

I can confirm that our company policy is not to state that office machines are unsafe, our policy is to promote an alternative, environmentally conscious option to our clients that negates the need to relocate the equipment, relocate their staff or install expensive ‘fixed’ ventilation. This will provide the best working conditions and ensure that our clients are complying with manufacturers’ recommendations and current H&S Legislation.

During the manufacturing and marketing of the eXair product range we have been delighted by the response from our clients. It has been very rewarding for the CDT Group and eXair to know that we can make a difference! ◆

