Our highly qualified team of specialists are adept at dealing with both the routine and unusual Contamination Assessment Service requests.

If you would like to discuss a specific matter, or would like any additional information surrounding this service, please contact one of the individuals listed below.

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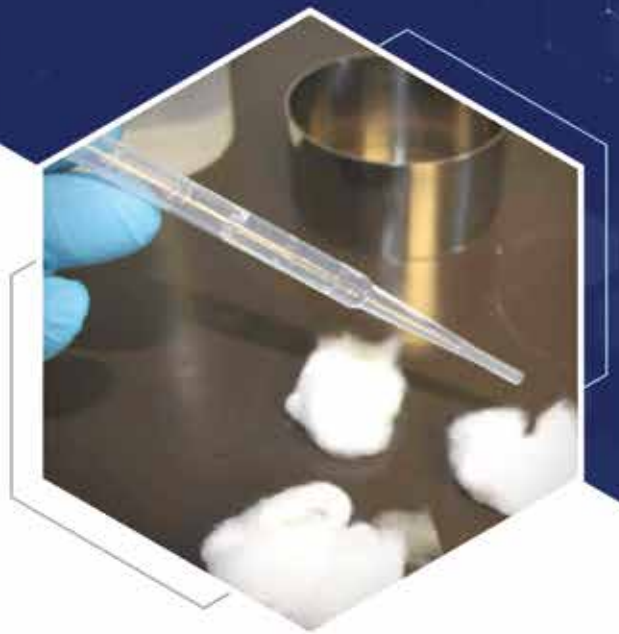
Burgoynes

consulting scientists and engineers



THE EXPERTS IN FORENSIC INVESTIGATION

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CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT SERVICE

CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT

Burgoynes has for many years advised clients in matters of contamination, including in cargo disputes; for further details of this service see our website: *www.burgoynes.com*.

Additionally, we are equipped to carry out an assessment of premises, equipment and stock in cases where there has been a release of a contaminant into the wider environment. This is where our Contamination Assessment Service can assist our clients.

FIRE-RELATED CONTAMINATION

A fire or explosion can result in the contamination by smoke of facilities, equipment and stock, not only at the incident premises, but also at neighbouring sites. Contamination can also be caused by the inadvertent release of other compounds during such an incident, for example corrosive chemicals used in many manufacturing processes.

In addition to the standard assessment procedures widely used in the damage remediation service sector, Burgoynes has developed a number of highly specialised techniques, which we believe sets us apart from our competitors. For example, by utilising a combination of these techniques to characterise the smoke from a fire, we can determine whether any alleged contamination is the result of a particular fire, or whether the source lies elsewhere, including from historical use of open fires or background pollution from motor vehicles.

SMOKE CONTAMINATION ASSESSMENT OF CLOTHING AND OTHER TEXTILES

Post-fire smoke contamination of clothing and other textiles (including soft furnishings) can result in significant insurance claims, which may equal or exceed the value of the other remedial works.

Claims can arise from a range of premises including:

- Domestic
- Retail
- Manufacturing
- Warehouse

Smoke contamination of clothing and other textiles can be difficult to assess and the results can be subjective giving rise to differences of opinion. Often there are no visible signs of contamination but residual odours might be suspected.

In addition there may be differences of opinion as to the effectiveness of any remedial cleaning.

BURGOYNES IS ABLE TO OFFER CLIENTS A RIGOROUS SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT OF SMOKE CONTAMINATION ON TEXTILES.

In any assessment it is important to select appropriate, representative samples together with suitable uncontaminated samples for comparison purposes. The samples should also be packaged appropriately in order to avoid the loss of any contaminants, the cross contamination from other samples, or the introduction of contaminants from the packaging.

Assessments are typically proportionate to the value of the loss and can include:

- A review of the circumstances of the contaminating incident
- An assessment of the scene including a survey of the extent of any visible contamination and documentation of the locations and types of clothing and textiles
- Selection of appropriate representative samples of clothing and textiles
- Appropriate packaging of samples so as to provide confidence in the analysis results
- UKAS accredited analysis of the samples in accordance with the appropriate British (European) Standard
- Interpretation and presentation of the results by appropriately qualified scientists

OTHER CONTAMINATION INCIDENTS

Burgoynes has also assisted our clients in the investigation of alleged contamination incidents arising from a multitude of sources. Examples include unexpected releases from industrial plants/processes, and overspray arising from the application of pesticides. In fact, regardless of the chemical nature of the contaminant, we should be able to assist.

We have experience advising on:

- The types of equipment that are at risk of damage due to contamination
- The suitability of methods proposed by others for restoring contaminated equipment and stock

We can undertake site visits to:

- Determine if contamination has occurred
- Conduct a detailed survey to ascertain the nature and extent of the contamination
- Establish the cause of the contamination
- Clarify whether the contamination can be attributed to the incident
- Consider whether any contaminated equipment or stock can be cleaned and advise on the suitability of proposed methods for doing so, based on scientific findings
- Determine any residual risks based on a scientific assessment of the contaminant(s) and substrate(s) and how cleaning, restoration and repair could mitigate these
- Ensure that swift remedial action can be initiated by carrying out indicative testing and measurement of certain contaminants on site

In addition to minimising losses through swift mitigation actions arising from our investigations, our assignments have also enabled our clients to challenge inflated claims for damage, based on scientific findings rather than subjective perceptions.

For further details and to discuss your particular requirements please contact one of our specialists listed overleaf.