Welding fume is generated in nearly all welding processes and employers have a legal obligation to ensure that sufficient measures are taken to protect the welder from this hazard. Safe working environments can be created and exposure to welding-related fume can be reduced dramatically if the correct fume control solution is applied to the working environment.

Recent advances in welding torch technology mean that harmful weld fumes can now be captured using a welding torch with built in nozzles for fume extraction connected to a high vacuum extraction unit.

Stand-alone weld fume extractors can be used or, for larger workshops, ducted extraction systems can be installed. On-torch extraction has the advantage over traditional systems as the extraction is always on when welding and the operator does not need to continually reposition the extraction hood.

It has been proven that extraction at source is the most effective and efficient method of capturing and removing welding and similar fumes.

Using this method, the risk of the welder or operator being subject to hazardous fumes is minimised and allows the welder to work over larger areas as well as inside constructions.

Extraction efficiency ranges up to 98% depending on the welding method, type of shielding gas, the material and the skills of the welder.

Extraction at source is the most efficient capturing solution for welding fumes.

ON-TORCH NEEDS ‘HIGH VACUUM’

On-torch extraction uses high vacuum technology, i.e. high speed extraction and low air volumes to extract the fumes. The extent of disturbance created in the shielding gas depends on the type of gas used.

MIG fume-torches, such as the SifGUN Flexi Fume Extraction MIG Torch are now available with advanced design features that enable 98% fume-removal at-source, without the need to adjust the flow-rate of shielding gases and with the weight and manoeuvrability of a regular MIG torch.

Technical advice in the original SifTips style was started in 1932. 'Sifbronzing' is an almost universally recognised way of describing the low temperature bronze welding of sheet steel, cast iron and other metals. This explains why Sifbronze, the company which first developed and promoted the technique, is generally considered to be a supplier of high quality welding rods, wires, fluxes and equipment.

'Will the Welder' was a SifTips magazine that was produced in the early 1930s. The aim was to provide users with ideas and tips on how to get the most out of their welding equipment.

Sif is renowned for its UK manufacturing heritage as well as its complete range of quality welding consumables used globally for almost a century.