Safety and health at work is everyone’s concern. It’s good for you. It’s good for business.

EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces campaign 2018-19 and other activities to improve workplace protection

Elke Schneider, Senior Project Manager, European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
ECHA stakeholder conference, 22 May 2019, Helsinki
Presentation of EU-OSHA

- **Set up in 1994 by the European Union and based in Bilbao, Spain**
- **Promote a culture of risk prevention**
  - Collect, analyse and disseminate information

- **What we don’t do**
  - Write legislation
  - Inspect workplaces
  - Enforce the law

- **How we do it**
  - Produce reliable and relevant information
  - User-friendly tools
  - Share good practices
  - Network with organisations across Europe

 +/- 64 staff
 Budget: EUR ~15 m
 of which **EUR ~ 8 m operational**
EU-OSHA activities

EU-OSHA Priority areas and activities
Multi-annual Strategic Programme 2014-2020

http://osha.europa.eu
Overview of EU-OSHA’s work on Dangerous Substances in the workplace

- **Research / State-of-the-art reviews:**
  - Expert forecast on emerging chemical + biological risks
  - Noise and ototoxic substances
  - Skin diseases and dermal exposure
  - Survey on Occupational Exposure Limits for CMRs in the Member States
  - Occupational cancer and carcinogens
  - Risks to reproductive health
  - Legionella and Legionnaires’ disease
  - Nanomaterials

- **Mainstreaming into other activities:**
  - Sectors, such as cleaners, health care, HORECA, construction, transport, maintenance, etc…
  - Workplace health promotion: Environmental Tobacco Smoke
  - Groups: young, female, migrant, older workers
  - Work-related diseases

- **Campaigning and cooperation**
  - 2003 EU campaign
  - SLIC campaign on asbestos and risk assessment
  - REACH & CLP mini-campaign

- **Participation in expert groups** (SUBSPORT, SCENHIR, nanotechnologies, etc.)

- **Supporting the European Commission:**
  Evaluation of the OSH acquis, carcinogens Directive, etc.

http://osha.europa.eu
Promoting guidance on OSH, REACH and CLP

REACH 2013 - Call to action

Workers’ reps in companies manufacturing, importing or using chemicals

The REACH Regulation requires the registration of all chemicals manufactured or imported into the EU. Indeed, many or not hazardous substances of one tonne or more per year. If information on the hazardous properties of the chemical is unavailable, it should be generated and the safety data sheets should be prepared.

Substances already on the market have to follow specific registration deadlines based on their volumes and use. The Health and Safety Executive has drawn the main deadlines to register all substances by 31 May 2013.

IS YOUR EMPLOYER READY?

Companies manufacturing or importing chemicals are required to register substances at 100 tonnes or 100,000 tonnes per year. The new REACH deadlines are:

- Existing substances: 31 May 2008
- New substances: 31 May 2013

Remember the deadlines

http://osha.europa.eu
History - Healthy Workplaces Campaigns

- 2000: 'Turn your Back on Musculoskeletal Disorders'
- 2001: 'Success is no Accident'
- 2002: 'Working on Stress'
- 2003: 'Dangerous Substances – Handle with Care'
- 2004: 'Building in Safety'
- 2005: 'Stop that Noise!'
- 2006: 'Safe Start'
- 2007: Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs)
- 2008-09: Risk Assessment
- 2010-11: Safe Maintenance
- 2012-13: ‘Working together for risk prevention’: leadership & worker participation
- 2014-15 ‘Healthy workplaces manage stress’: managing stress & psychosocial risks
- 2016-17 ‘Healthy workplaces for all ages’: Promoting a sustainable working life

- **HWC 2018-19** ‘Healthy workplaces manage dangerous substances’

**FORTHCOMING**: HWC 2020-21: Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSD)
Healthy workplaces

MANAGE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

www.healthy-workplaces.eu
Target audience

- INTERMEDIARIES
  - Focal Points and their networks
  - Social partners (European and national)
  - Sectoral Social Dialogue Committees
  - Policy makers (European and national)
  - Large enterprises and sectoral federations, incl. business associations of SMEs, and the chemical and related industries
  - European institutions and their networks (Enterprise Europe Network)
  - (European) NGOs, incl. patient associations
  - OSH professionals and their associations
  - OSH research community
  - Labour Inspectorates and their associations
  - Physicians, incl. general practitioners
  - Educational establishments
  - Associations of chemical engineers and chemists
  - REACH helpdesks and chemicals inspectorates
  - Media

- BENEFICIARIES
  - Workers and employers in general, with a special emphasis on those in micro and small enterprises.
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS  EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- Press conferences.
- Press releases.
- Good practices exchange visits.
- Media trainings.
- Interviews.
- Tripartite visits.
- Info points.
- Journalists visit and roundtables.

Number of activities ordered by FoPs.

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<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tr>
<td>HWC activities</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>130</td>
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79%
Facts and figures

- There are about 10 times more fatal deaths from exposure to dangerous substances at work than from occupational accidents (ILO)
- Chemical or biological substances are present in 38 % of workplaces according to EU-OSHA’s workplace survey¹
- 18 % of EU workers report being exposed to chemicals for at least 25 % of their working time²
- A single worker can come into contact with hundreds of different chemical substances
- Large enterprises often use more than 1,000 different chemical products
- New risks are emerging all the time

EU OSH Legislation and Dangerous substances

What are dangerous substances at workplaces?

- Any substance (gas, liquid or solid) that poses a risk to workers’ safety and health:
  - Chemicals, e.g. in paints, glues, disinfectants, cleaning products or pesticides
  - Process-generated contaminants, e.g. welding fumes, silica dust or combustion products like from hot processes or e.g. diesel exhausts
  - Naturally occurring materials like grain dust, asbestos or crude oil
  - Degradation products and waste

- Includes safety risks such as fire, explosion and suffocation.
EU OSH Legislation and Dangerous substances

- (a) ‘Chemical agent’ means any chemical element or compound, on its own or admixed, as it occurs in the natural state or as produced, used or released, including release as waste, by any work activity, whether or not produced intentionally and whether or not placed on the market;

- (b) ‘Hazardous chemical agent’ means:
  - (iii) any chemical agent which, whilst not meeting the criteria for classification as hazardous…… may, because of its physico-chemical, chemical or toxicological properties and the way it is used or is present in the workplace, present a risk to the safety and health of workers, including any chemical agent that is assigned an occupational exposure limit value under Article 3.

- ‘Activity involving chemical agents’ means any work in which chemical agents are used, or are intended to be used, in any process, including production, handling, storage, transport or disposal and treatment, or which result from such work.
EU legislation

Occupational safety and health regulation, including

- Directive 98/24/EC (the Chemical Agents Directive, CAD)


Chemicals legislation accessible from our Website:

- Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH Regulation)
- Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation)
HWC 18-19 Campaign - Key objectives

- **Raise awareness** of the risks posed by dangerous substances in the workplace
- **Promoting risk assessment, elimination and substitution**, and the hierarchy of prevention
- **Improve understanding** of the risks associated with **carcinogens**
- **Target workers** with specific needs and vulnerabilities
- **Provide information** on **policy developments** and relevant **legislation**
3 steps to manage dangerous substances

- **Identify hazards:**
  - Make an inventory of substances/chemical products used and generated in the workplace
  - Collect information about the harm they can cause and how this can happen, for example through labels and safety data sheets
  - Assess whether carcinogens or mutagens, for which more stringent rules apply, are used

- **Assess exposure:**
  - Identify those who may be exposed, including cleaners and maintenance workers
  - Assess workers’ exposure looking at the type, intensity, length, frequency of exposure including combinations of exposures
  - Consider combined effects with other risks, for example fire risks, skin uptake, or wet work

- **Set measures:**
  - A hazard list can then be used to draw up an action plan, including who has to implement it
  - Control the implementation and impact of the measures
EU OSH Legislation and Dangerous substances

- Employers need to set effective preventive and protective measures
- Keeping an inventory of dangerous substances and conducting workplace risk assessment for every workplace
- Dangerous substances and processes should be completely eliminated from workplaces (e.g. designing new work processes)
- If elimination is not possible, the risk must be managed based on a hierarchy of prevention measures — the STOP principle:
  - Substitution (safe or less harmful alternatives)
  - Technological measures (encasing, exhaust)
  - Organisational measures (qualified employees for specified work)
  - Personal protection (wearing PPE)
- Workers should be kept informed about
  - the findings of risk assessment
  - the hazards they are exposed to and how they may be affected
  - what they have to do to keep themselves and others safe
  - what to do in case of an accident or when things go wrong
Specific groups at risk

- Certain groups of workers can be particularly at risk from dangerous substances, including:
  - women, incl. pregnant and breastfeeding workers
  - young workers
  - migrant workers
  - temporary workers

- This may be because of particular sensitivity, inexperience or because of a lack of training or information

- The risks to these workers should be considered in risk assessment

- Example: Young workers may have a very long exposure time during their life and their biological development may make them more sensitive to the toxic effects of chemical agents
Campaign website & back-office  www.healthy-workplaces.eu
HWC 18-19 Campaign - Campaign resources

- Campaign guide
- Practical e-tool
- Series of info sheets on priority topics
- Database of resources and tools
- Case studies and audio-visual database
- OSHwiki: updated section and new articles
- Training for substitution materials
- Infographic

- Napo films
- Promotion material
  - Campaign leaflet
  - Good Practice Awards flyer
  - Poster
  - Videos
  - Online banner
  - Email signature
- Links to useful sites
NAPO AND NAPETTE

Napo in... danger: chemicals!

Napo in... dust at work – let’s manage occupational dust exposure!
HWC 18-19 Campaign – info sheets

Legislative framework on dangerous substances in workplaces

Key Points
- There is a common framework in the European Union to protect workers from the dangers of dangerous substances in workplaces.
- The most relevant piece of legislation is the EU Framework Directive, the Hazardous Substances Directive, and the Seveso Directives.
- These Directives have been harmonized across the member states to ensure the protection of workers in dangerous substances in workplaces.
- Legislative and policy measures contribute to the reduction of risks from dangerous substances in the workplace, including the reduction of exposure levels, the use of alternative substances, and the substitution of substances.
- Regular updates and revisions to the legislation ensure that the guidance remains relevant and effective.

Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances
The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) has created a campaign to promote the safe management of dangerous substances. This campaign focuses on the prevention of risks from dangerous substances in the workplace. In collaboration with the Agency for Research on the Effects of Substances, they have developed a toolkit to support employers in managing the risks associated with dangerous substances.

Substitution of dangerous substances in the workplace

Key Points
- Substitution is a key strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to hazardous substances. It involves replacing a hazardous substance with a less hazardous one or a non-hazardous alternative.
- The substitution process can involve a complete or partial replacement of a substance, with the aim of reducing or eliminating the risk of exposure.
- By implementing substitution, employers can improve the safety and health of their workforce, reducing the risk of accidents and illnesses.

Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances
The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is committed to promoting the safe management of dangerous substances. Their campaign emphasizes the importance of substitution as a key strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to hazardous substances. By providing guidance and resources, they aim to support employers in implementing effective substitution practices to protect the health and safety of their workers.
Campaign Info sheets

Info sheet 1  Substitution of dangerous substances at workplaces
Info sheet 2  Legislation

2018

Info sheet 3  Guidance and support for managing dangerous substances at workplaces
Info sheet 4  Facts and figures on dangerous substances
Info sheet 5  Nanotechnologies

Planned for 2019

Info sheet 6  Groups of workers with particular risks
Info sheet 7  Carcinogens at work places
The importance of risk assessment

- Risk assessment must be carried out to identify all safety and health risks.
- Everyone — employers, managers, OSH services, and workers — should be involved.
- It should cover all groups of workers and contractors, and also exceptional work situations, e.g. maintenance and repair.
- It is essential that any work to eliminate, substitute or control risks is prioritised.
- Risk assessments should be kept up to date and revised when incidents occur.
- Workers should be well informed about the results and trained to apply the prevention measures.
- Tools and instruments are available to help enterprises carry out the risk assessment > check the new e-tool on dangerous substances!

www.healthy-workplaces.eu
Dangerous Substances e-tool

Find and reduce the safety and health hazards associated with dangerous substances and chemical products in workplaces within your company.

You can either start with a very short (Quick Start) questionnaire with seven questions or immediately start with a more detailed questionnaire of 36 questions. If you use the long questionnaire, you can save your answers and continue later. Once you have completed the long questionnaire, you can print a report, 'My Chemical Guide' that includes your answers, a to-do checklist and recommendations for good practices and measures.

7 Questions
Quick start
MY CHEMICAL GUIDE — QUICK START

Up to 36 Questions
Quick start
MY CHEMICAL GUIDE — LONG QUESTIONNAIRE
Short Questionnaire with seven questions

1. Do you know which risks with dangerous substances may occur at your work places and have you documented the risks?
2. Hazard pictograms – if you have products with these labels, are the labels understood?
3. Have you got a list of the chemical products in use or stored in your company?”
4. Do you use and understand the Safety Data Sheets?
5. Are dangerous substances generated in any process in your enterprise?
6. Are the workers aware of the risks with the chemical products and do they know how to work safely and how to protect themselves?
7. Has any of your employees had health complaints or has been ill due to exposure to dangerous substances present or used in your business?
INTERACTIVE E-TOOL ‘Dangerous Substances’

Based on this info the user receives a tailored report on his/her situation in the enterprise / at the work places.

This includes recommendations for improvements - in form of a report - and a checklist for easier follow-up.

The e-tool is based on KEMIGuiden from PREVENT Sweden.

The current e-tool works - with often very general – EU regulation and needs adaptation to the national legislation.
DATABASE OF RESOURCES – FILTER OPTION WORK TASKS

Work tasks:

- Cleaning or Disinfecting (13)
- Handling Chemicals (13)
- Construction (10)
- Contact with Humans or Animals (10)
- Working Indoors (8)
- Medical and Dental Services (7)
- Working Outdoors (7)
- Applying Pesticides (5)
- Applying Surface Coatings (5)
- Beauty Culture (5)
- Handling Animals (5)
- Handling Plants (5)
- Heating, Machining, or Welding Metal (5)
- Manufacturing (4)
- Processing Materials (4)
- Smelting and Casting Metal (4)
- Applying Glues or Sealants (3)
- Food Processing (3)
- Mining or Quarrying (3)

Provider: NEPSI
Type: Video / Measurement combined
Country: EU
Language: Bulgarian, Cz, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Glass furnace batch charging
This activity relates to the charging of glass making raw materials to the glass the furnace batch hopper. See more

Provider: NEPSI
Type: Video / Measurement combined
Country: EU
Language: Bulgarian, Cz, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Fettling larger castings in foundries
This activity covers the fettling shop, when fettling larger castings. The video i not come between the dust and the extraction vents. Confirm... See more

Provider: NEPSI
Type: Video / Measurement combined
Country: EU
Language: Bulgarian, Cz, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Crushing of minerals
This activity relates to the use of a crusher to break down boulders of quarry while the crusher is in operation. See more

Provider: NEPSI
Type: Video / Measurement combined
Country: EU
Language: Bulgarian, Cz, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Local exhaust ventilation
This activity relates to the use of local exhaust ventilation in the workplace. Th
ENTERPRISE CASE STUDIES - OVERVIEW

- Ensuring safety at a pesticide manufacturing plant through effective maintenance
- Replacing hazardous resin with 3D printing to make moulds
- Aiming for zero harm through training and communication
- Controlling exposure to dangerous chemicals when treating surgical instruments
- Managing the risks posed by hazardous chemicals in a pharmaceutical company
- Integrating chemical safety into efficient manufacturing
- Managing the risks posed by hazardous chemicals in a pharmaceutical company
- Implementation of a chemical and hazardous waste management system in higher education and research
- Educating young people about working safely with chemicals
Carcinogens cause the majority of fatal occupational diseases in the EU.

Every year, occupational exposure to carcinogens is estimated to cause:
- 120,000 people to develop cancer
- 80,000 deaths
- Many cases of occupational cancer are preventable.

The Roadmap on Carcinogens aims to address this issue.

Stricter measures apply to carcinogens than to other dangerous substances.

A joint info sheet with the signatories.

Promotion of ongoing actions on the webpage.

An annual event.

Promotion of selected tools and instruments.

AT Presidency – main topic, conferences, inspection campaign, EU legislation-CMD.


Key dates

24 April 2018
Launch of the campaign
Start of the Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards competition

October 2018 and 2019
The European Week for Safety and Health at Work

November 2019
The Healthy Workplaces Summit

Other events have been held in 2018 and 2019, including meetings organised by national focal points and other campaign partners.
We have a common goal!

- Contact your national Focal Point
- Help us promote the campaign messages
- Participate in the events
- Benefit from the resources
Further information

- Learn more at the campaign website:
  • www.healthy-workplaces.eu

- Subscribe to our campaign newsletter:
  • https://healthy-workplaces.eu/en/healthy-workplaces-newsletter

- Keep up to date with activities and events through social media:

- Find out about events in your country from your focal point:
  • www.healthy-workplaces.eu/fops
Thank you for your attention

For further contacts:

Elke Schneider
schneider(a)osha.europa.eu

EU-OSHA Brussels Liaison Office
brusselsoffice@osha.europa.eu