



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



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
- Mainstreamed into our campaigns: noise (2004), construction (2005), young workers (2006), risk assessment (2008)

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

■ Supporting the European Commission:

Evaluation of the OSH acquis, carcinogens Directive, etc.



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 chemical substances that are manufactured or imported into the EU, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein in quantities 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 updated.

Substances already on the market have to follow specific registration deadlines, based on their volumes and on their health and environmental hazards. New substances must always be registered before they are placed on the market.

IS YOUR EMPLOYER READY?

Companies manufacturing or importing chemical substances into the EU in quantities of 100 tonnes or more per year have to register them by the second REACH deadline of 31 May 2013.



Remember the deadlines

First registration
30 November 2010
≥ 1000 tonnes/year

Second registration
31 May 2013
≥ 100 tonnes/year

Third registration
31 May 2018
≥ 1 tonne/year

Occupational Safety and Health and the Chemical Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation

Guidance to Help Employers and Workers to Manage the Transition to the New System



December 2011

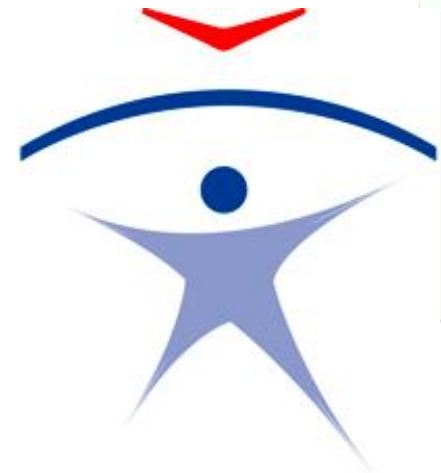
Guidance for employers on controlling risks
from chemicals
Interface between Chemicals Agents Directive
and REACH at the workplace

Social Europe



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



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.**



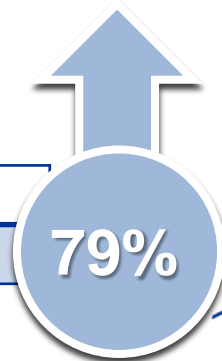
NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

- 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.

	2018	2017	2016
HWC activities	232	130	129



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**

1) Summary — Second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2), EU-OSHA, 2015, p. 5. Available at: <https://osha.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/documents/esener-ii-summary-en.PDF>

2) Sixth European Working Conditions Survey, Overview Report, Eurofound, 2016, p. 43. Available at: https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/sites/default/files/ef_publication/field_ef_document/ef1634en.pdf



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 89/391/EEC \(the OSH Framework Directive\)](#)
- [Directive 98/24/EC \(the Chemical Agents Directive, CAD\)](#)
- [Directive 2004/37/EC \(the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive, CMD\)](#)

Complete overview on relevant OSH legislation:

www.osha.europa.eu/en/safety-and-health-legislation

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, in which the employer 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:
 - S**ubstitution (safe or less harmful alternatives)
 - T**echnological measures (encasing, exhaust)
 - O**rganisational measures (qualified employees for specific work)
 - P**ersonal 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

- Campaign website & back-office www.healthy-workplaces.eu

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Healthy Workplaces website. At the top left, there are logos for Healthy Workplaces, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, and the European Union flag. To the right of these logos, the text reads "Healthy Workplaces MANAGE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES". Further right, there are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Blogger, along with a search bar, a "Login" button, and a "Language" dropdown menu.

Below the header is a navigation bar with the following menu items: "ABOUT THE TOPIC", "TOOLS AND RESOURCES", "GET INVOLVED", "CAMPAIGN PARTNERS", and "MEDIA CENTRE".

The main content area features a large green banner with the text "Healthy Workplaces MANAGE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES". Below this text is a sub-headline: "Safety and health at work is everyone's concern. It's good for you. It's good for business." and a button that says "> Find out more". The banner also includes an illustration of four diverse people (a woman in a white lab coat, a man in a blue suit, a man in a blue suit, and a woman in a beige jacket) standing around a globe that is covered in various hazard symbols.

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 comprehensive legislative framework in the European Union to protect workers from the risks of dangerous substances in workplaces.
- The most relevant pieces of legislation at the EU level are the GHS Framework Directive, the Chemical Agents Directive and the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directives. These directives and their transposition into national law aim to reduce the exposure of workers to dangerous substances in work places.
- Legislation in other policy areas contributes to the reduction of risks from dangerous substances in workplaces, such as EU legislation on chemical substances and mixtures and also specific EU and international legislation on waste, storage and transport.
- Achieving a high level of implementation of the legislation in practice is a key challenge, including following the principle of proportionality applying the most effective preventive measures.

Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is running a Europe-wide campaign from 2018 to 2019 to promote the prevention of risks from dangerous substances in workplaces. The aim is to reduce the presence of and exposure to dangerous substances in workplaces by raising awareness of the risks and of effective ways of preventing them.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work
European Union
Healthy Workplaces



Substitution of dangerous substances in the workplace

Key Points

- Exposure to dangerous substances in the workplace continues to be a major safety and health issue. The health effects can be life changing and even fatal.
- The best way to reduce the risks is elimination or substitution — removing the substance by changing the process or product in which it is used or replacing it with a less dangerous one.
- Substitution is a stepwise process — a complete risk assessment is a key step in the process.
- By working together, management and workers can build a strong risk prevention culture in which substitution is part of prevention and protection routines.

All info sheets and other campaign materials are available to download from EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces Campaign website (<https://healthy-workplaces.eu>)

Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) is running a Europe-wide campaign from 2018 to 2019 to promote the prevention of risks from dangerous substances in workplaces. The aim is to reduce the presence of and exposure to dangerous substances in workplaces by raising awareness of the risks and of effective ways of preventing them.

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!

OIRA
Online interactive Risk Assessment
www.oiraproject.eu/en



HWC 18-19 Campaign - e-tool Dangerous substances

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

Sector / industry

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, Czech, 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, Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Fettling larger castings in foundries

This activity covers the fettling shop, when fettling larger castings. The video will not come between the dust and the extraction vents. Confirm... > [See more](#)

Provider: NEPSI

Type: Video / Measurement combined **Country:** EU **Language:** Bulgarian, Czech, Slovak, Slovenian, Finnish, Swedish

> Crushing of minerals

This activity relates to the use of a crusher to break down boulders of quarries while the crusher is in operation. > [See more](#)

Provider: NEPSI

Type: Video / Measurement combined **Country:** EU **Language:** Bulgarian, Czech, 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
- FIN Presidency – conference end November 2019 in Helsinki

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/dangerous-substances/roadmap-to-carcinogens>

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](mailto:schneider(a)osha.europa.eu)

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

