

<b>Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances Paper</b>		<b>ACTS/14 /2010</b>	
<b>Meeting date:</b>	11 November 2010	<b>Open Govt. Status:</b>	Open
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<b>Exemptions:</b>	None		

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES

### HSL Submissions to HSE 2011 Science Plan

#### Research Project Idea Form

#### Tracking International Exposure Limits

Programme/Project Title:	Tracking International Exposure Limits
Name of HSL person to Contact for further information:	John Cocker

#### **Objective(s) & why it links to the HSE Strategy**

The objective is to monitor International exposure limits and compare them to values in the UK to detect significant differences and the need to consider action. The project relates directly to HSE's mission to prevent death, injury and ill health in Great Britain's workplaces, in particular:

objective 1: to identify and prioritise significant health and safety problem areas for workers and those affected by work activities but also objectives:

objective 4: to ensure there is a robust, consistent and credible regulatory framework and safety regime in place for major hazard industries

objective 12: To contribute to the Government's international and domestic strategies by ensuring the safety of existing and emerging technologies.

objective 16: to be recognized as an effective and proportionate regulator.

#### **Brief Summary of Research that will be undertaken**

Although HSE no longer sets domestic exposure limits other international organisations continue to do so like the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), the German MAK Commission (DFG), the European Scientific Committee on Exposure Limits, the World Health Organisation and others. New exposure limits are developed and old ones are revised (usually to lower levels). This can lead to significant differences with UK limits. Although the HSE approach to controlling workplace hazards is based on good occupational hygiene practice, exposure limits are still used by occupational hygiene professionals as a guide. Major differences between UK and international limits can raise challenges to HSE's approach. This project aims to track published international exposure limits and to identify potential issues. It also seeks to identify such issues before changes to exposure limits are published by working with ACGIH, DFG and others.

#### **What will the programme / project deliver to HSE?**

The project will give HSE early warning of potential issues emerging from changes in International exposure limits so that HSE can consider its position and any need for action or changes to guidance.

#### **Benefits to HSE and the UK H&S System (State, where possible, which part of HSE will benefit e.g. FOD, HID etc)**

The benefits to HSE are early warning of potential issues arising with hazardous substances due to changing exposure limits. The parts of HSE most likely to benefit are Chief Scientific Advisers Group, Long Latency Health Risks, the occupational hygiene community, Field Operations Directorate & Hazardous Installations Directorate.

#### **Outline Time and Cost (probably best to give a range e.g. £xK - £yK, 15-18 months)**

Outline Costs:	£25k – 35k/year
Outline Time:	3 years