

Towards a modern exposure intelligence strategy

Draft outline design of survey

Ideas for Participation of IOSH in collection and analysis of exposure information from UK industry

AIM: The main aim of this initiative is to develop a system for collection of reliable information about occupational chemical exposure in UK and beyond from professionals working in health, safety and environment.

PROPOSAL

Method 1

IOSH Member survey using SNAP on-line survey and analysis software analogous to ongoing highly successful HSC Slips and Trips programme initiative.

Method 2

IOSH to kindly consider a pilot investigation of an intelligence network to gather contextual information about human occupational exposure and control. This task will focus on the potential of a network of IOSH members to provide exposure factor data that can be used to improve the exposure estimation. The institute will provide access to professionals working in health, safety and environment.

IOSH could appoint 50 to 100 volunteer members who agree to provide anonymised information about specified processes and chemicals that they are already involved with. A database could be adapted to enable collection and reporting of information analogous to the Slips and Trips questionnaire and including the number of people exposed to a specified range of chemicals in a plant or worksite, the processes and tasks undertaken, the frequency of exposure, the duration of exposure events, the form of the material being worked, the average quantity of material used per day, the method of handling the material, a qualitative assessment of the efficiency of any local control measures and other factors relevant to the exposure of individuals that could be incorporated in the REACH Tool.

IOSH could be asked to consider provision of briefings and perhaps run a pilot for one year. There would need to be appropriate encouragement and support for the participants at regular intervals. At the end of the data collection phase IOSH and HSE would summarise the data collected, assess the success of the approach, in particular the costs, risks and benefits, and decide on future strategy.

Method 3

A combination of methods 1 and 2

Comments

IOSH is prepared to pilot these ideas in principle, using method 3, that is a combination of questionnaire and Focus Group approaches.

Preparations could be made for a pilot to start in the third quarter of 2007-2008. The initial participating IOSH Specialist Groups could be selected on the basis of their likelihood of holding exposure data. A cross section from these sectors may be established across Europe by securing participation of the European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organisations (ENSHPO). This may usefully link to the European collaboration on an advanced exposure assessment tool.

Questionnaire, illustrative only. The survey protocol will be tailored to gain powerful insights into what people are exposed to (substances/processes), what scale, what industry, process, knowledge, attitudes, behaviour, what assessment, what monitoring,

what control, possession of exposure data, biological monitoring data, health monitoring etc, any new issues or unknowns/suspicions? The survey will give an overall cross section of what is out there.

Q1 Please tell us your job title

Q2 Please tell us what grade of IOSH membership you hold

Q3 Are you a member of an Occupational Hygiene or Health Society?

Q4 Please tell us how many workers are employed in your organisation

Q5 Please tell us which of the following best describes your organisations main activity?

Q6 Please identify which, if any, of the following issues are potentially relevant to workers in your organisation? Skin problems-Respiratory problems-exposure to chemicals-biohazards/infections/animals, (expand this list)

Q7 Please identify three issues that are your organisations main priorities?

Q8 Which of the following best describes your organisations current control of the issues you identified in Q7, (A, B, C, D)

Q9 A list of control actions

Q10 Please tell us what methods you have used to measure exposure

Q11 Please tell us when was the last time you provided training to workers to raise awareness of minimisation of exposure?

Q12 Please tell us when was the last time you reviewed your COSHH assessments?

Q13 Please tell us to what extent do workers follow instructions and training about minimising exposure to or contact with substances?

Q14 Please tell us how you consult workers about hazards from exposure to substances?

Q15 Please tell us to what extent good control practice is adopted consistently across your organisation?

Q16 Please tell us whether your organisation has made any changes to the way it manages the risks of exposure to hazardous substances during the last six months?

Q17 Please tell us what changes your organisation has made?

List of controls including training, risk assessment, inspection, changed practices, consult workers, reviewed PPE, analysis/monitoring of incidents and exposures, focused on behavioural issues, repaired containment, materials handling or LEV systems etc

Q18 Please tell us how much more you think your organisation could do to reduce exposure or contact with hazardous substances?

Q19 So that we can better understand attitudes towards this issue, please could you say how strongly you agree, or disagree with each of the following statements?

(Organisational commitment, relative priority, workers cooperate)

I know all I need to know to help my organisation reduce the risks from substances

We sometimes have difficulty getting new initiatives on controlling exposure adopted consistently in all parts of our organisation

I would expect a health and safety inspector to check on hazardous substances if they visited my organisation

Q20 Below is a list of resources you might use to help you tackle risks from hazardous substances. For each, please say whether you feel you have enough, could do with more or do not need this at all?

List guidance, techniques for assessing, benchmarking information to compare how you are doing with other organisations

Q21 What else would be helpful?

List, benchmarking information, technical guidance, case studies/ examples of good practice, more/better guidance, etc

Q22 Please tell us if you received information about hazardous substances in the last year from:

List eg HSE website, HSE guidance materials, the IOSH website, attendance at a seminar, press/radio advertisements, none of these, other

Q23 Which of these information sources has been most useful to you? Please pick one

List: HSE website, etc

Q24 Please tell us who organised the event or events that you have been to?

Q25 Finally, please tell us what more you think HSE and IOSH could do to help your organisation reduce risks from hazardous substances?