



## **HWC 2018-19: Establishing a prevention culture on dangerous substances while targeting specific groups of workers**

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European Agency  
for Safety and Health  
at Work



# European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)

- A body of the EU
- Established in 1996 in Bilbao, Spain
- To promote a **culture of risk prevention to improve working conditions in Europe**, by providing technical, scientific and economic information to serve the needs of those involved in safety and health at work.
- Tripartite Board bringing together:
  - governments, employers' and workers' organisations
  - the European Commission



# What we do

## ▪ Research

- We identify and assess new and emerging risks at work
  - e.g. foresight, ESENER (EU survey of enterprises on new and emerging risks)
- We mainstream OSH into other policy areas: public health, research, environmental protection, transport, education, ...

## ▪ Prevention

- We collect good practice examples
- We develop hands-on instruments for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to help them assess their workplace risks, share knowledge and good practices on OSH (e.g. OiRA ‘Online interactive risk assessment’)

## ▪ Partnership

- We work with and network governments, employers’ and workers’ organisations, EU bodies, networks, and private companies
  - e.g. our EU network of national Focal Points

## ▪ Campaigning

- We organise major bi-annual EU “Healthy Workplace Campaigns”:
  - 2012-2013: Working together for risk prevention
  - 2014-2015: Healthy workplaces manage stress
  - 2016-2017: Healthy workplaces for all ages

# CLP mini-campaign, launch for ECHA “OSH & REACH Workshop” 3rd October 2012



## EU-OSHA materials

- a poster and a quiz
- Frequently asked questions on REACH
- Frequently asked questions on CLP
- Factsheet (Communicating information about DS)
- update of the Web section on dangerous substances
- Napo films

**Promotion via Website and Newsletter (40,000 subscribers)**

## Cooperation:

- 4 info sheets with ETUI-IndustriAll-ECHA
- DG EMPL guides on CLP and how to use information from labelling at workplaces (guide, powerpoint and notes, leaflet, pocket card)
- ACSH working party chemicals document on REACH and OSH
- SLIC are in contact with ECHA Forum, REACH guide for labour inspectors
- ECHA have some CLP information, e.g. a quiz

## Focal Point request:

- National information addressing the links between REACH and OSH/CLP and OSH made available to SLIC Chemex
- Campaigns/initiatives to promote CLP/REACH or explain the links
- Any labour inspection initiatives to access/use information from REACH

# 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.

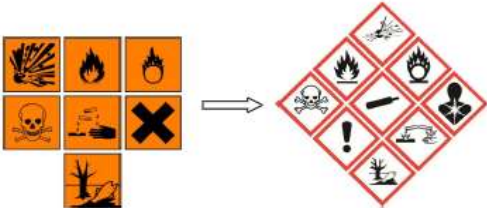


**Remember the deadlines **

<b>First registration</b> <b>30 November 2010</b> <small>≥ 1000 tonnes/year</small>	<b>Second registration</b> <b>31 May 2013</b> <small>≥ 100 tonnes/year</small>	<b>Third registration</b> <b>31 May 2018</b> <small>≥ 1 tonne/year</small>
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## 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

Social Europe

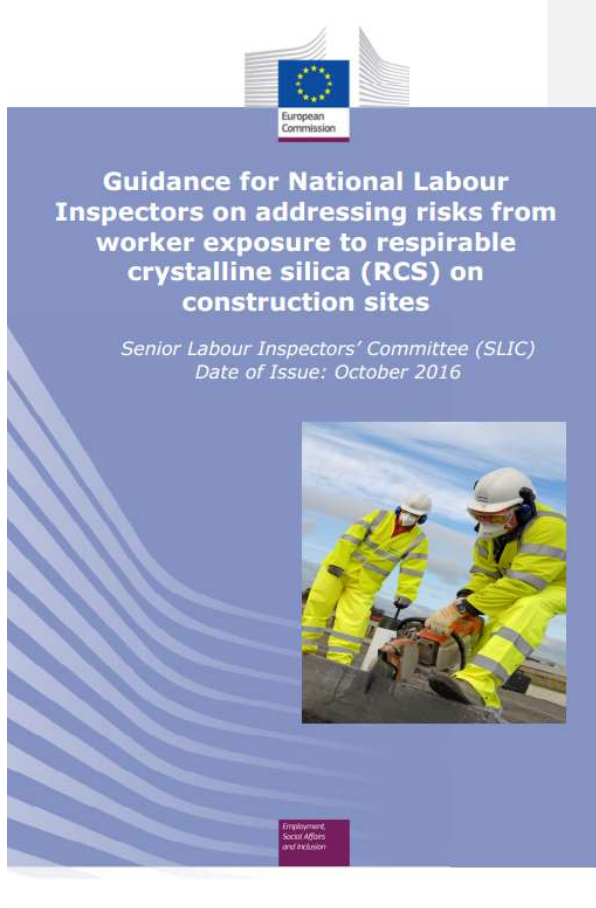
## Guidance for employers on controlling risks from chemicals

### Interface between Chemicals Agents Directive and REACH at the workplace





# SLIC CHEMEX guide for LI on silica in construction lunched 27.10.2016



Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion  
Guidance for National Labour Inspectors on addressing risks from  
worker exposure to respirable crystalline silica (RCS)  
on construction sites

European Commission

### 2.13 Sanding concrete floors

Poor Practice - sanding concrete floors without on-tool extraction (GDWW, B)

Good practice - sanding concrete floors with on-tool extraction (HSE, GB)

<b>General comment</b>	Studies show that using a grinding machine on concrete floors without control can result in exposure to significant airborne concentrations of RCS. The task requires the control measures in this sheet to be properly applied, to reduce exposure below the benchmark OELV 0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> . Concrete floors can be polished using wet or dry methods. Although each has its advantages, dry polishing is the method most commonly used in the industry today. Wet polishing uses water to cool the diamond abrasives and eliminate grinding dust but it creates slurry that must be removed. A combination of the dry and the wet methods can be used.
<b>Recommended controls for RCS dust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use on-tool extraction on all grinding (sanding) machines -Select an M or H class extraction unit.</li> <li>Wet methods are an alternative to dry methods.</li> <li>Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) e.g. FFP3 disposable masks or half mask respirators with a P3 filter should be used.</li> </ul>
<b>Possible Actions by National labour Inspector</b>	<p><b>High Health Risk</b> - Consider immediate action when all controls missing/ineffective (e.g. stopping the work, use of Notices, use of administrative fines etc.)</p> <p><b>Medium Health Risk</b> - Consider action in situations where one control is missing/ineffective (e.g. use of Notices requiring action)</p> <p><b>Low Health Risk</b> - No action required where all controls are present and effective</p>
<b>Designing Out Risks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce the number of workers in the area where sanding operations take place</li> <li>Use signals to prevent unnecessary workers from entering the area where sanding operations are ongoing</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance of control equipment &amp; respiratory protective equipment (RPE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure the extraction flow rate is right for the work</li> <li>Hose connections should be tight-fitting and secure without obvious leaks</li> <li>Maintain hoses</li> <li>Carry out thorough examination and testing on extraction system as required</li> <li>Inspect and maintain re-usable RPE, use disposable RPE just once</li> <li>Workers should be trained in the correct operation of the equipment and use of RPE</li> </ul>

October 2016 37

Promotion under:

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/highlights/respirable-crystalline-silica-construction-sites-new-european-guidance-labour-inspectors>

# EU-OSHA support to action on carcinogens

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

Home » Themes » Dangerous substances » Roadmap on carcinogens

- Themes
- Ageing & OSH +
  - Benefits of OSH
  - Dangerous substances
    - REACH
    - CLP
    - Roadmap on carcinogens →
  - Commission's proposal on carcinogens
  - Leadership & worker participation
  - Mainstreaming OSH into education
  - Micro and small enterprises & OSH
  - Musculoskeletal disorders
  - Nanomaterials
  - Stress & psychosocial risks
  - Women & OSH
  - Young people & OSH

## Roadmap on carcinogens

### Taking action on work-related cancer

Cancer is estimated to be the leading cause of work-related deaths in the EU. It is clear that more can be done to reduce the number of cases of occupational cancer, and that's why, on 25 May 2016, six European organisations signed a covenant committing them to a voluntary action scheme to raise awareness of the risks arising from exposures to carcinogens in the workplace and exchange good practices.

The partners are:

- The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection
- BUSINESSEUROPE (European employers)
- The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- The European Commission
- The European Trade Union Confederation
- The Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment.

A joint info sheet with the signatories

Promotion of ongoing actions on the webpage

An annual event

Promotion of selected tools and instruments

**Title:**

**Establishing a prevention culture on dangerous substances while targeting specific groups of workers**



# HWC 2018/19: Overview on goals

## Follows on from 2003 campaign

- Translating information for the workplace level, in particular SMEs
- Encouraging communication up and down the supply chain
- Reinforcing the substitution principle and hierarchy of control measures
- Analysing and sharing information on newly developed tools and instruments
- Addressing changes in chemical legislation and consequences for workplaces:
  - How REACH and CLP contribute to information
  - Consider biological agents, substances generated by work, and not under CLP
  - Changes to CMD
- Addressing changes: new risks (e.g. nanomaterials), emerging risks (e.g. asbestos in renovation work), combined risks, changes in work, sectors and workforce
- Addressing issues relevant to vulnerable workers
- Addressing gender issues



## Cooperation is crucial

- Our FOPs and national chemicals networks, ECHA and its REACH networks, SLIC (asbestos and DS campaigns), social partners, DG EMPL, DG GROW, DG SANTÉ, DG ENV, etc., other agencies (ECDC, etc.)

# REACH already discussed during 2003 campaign



# FORUM

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work

ISSN 1681-4398

12

## Working with dangerous substances: The European policy challenge

Results of the closing event of the European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2003,

Bilbao, Spain, Monday 24 November 2003

### Contents

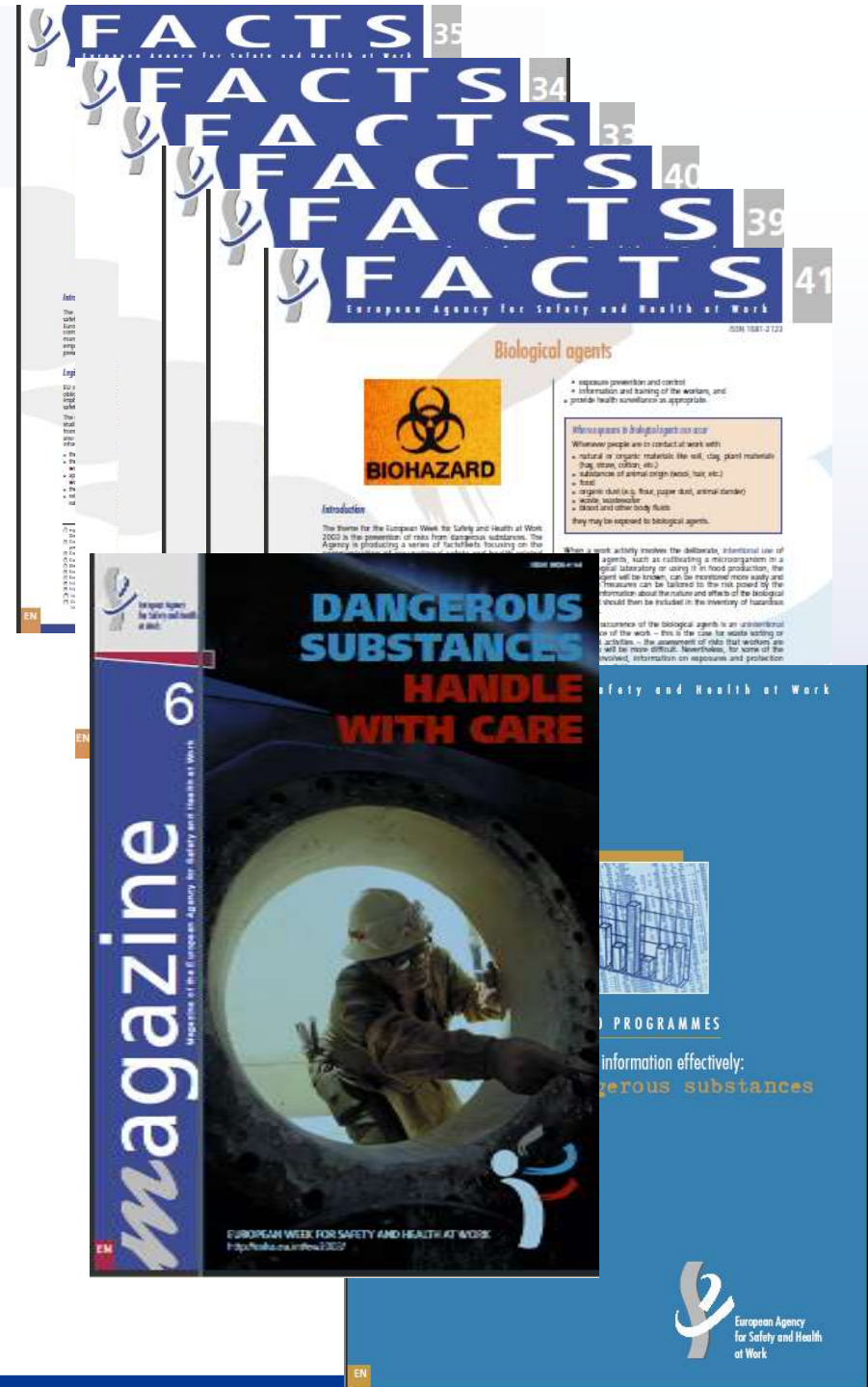
- 1 Introduction
- 2 Key facts
- 3 Workshops — Presentations and conclusions
  - 3.1. Workshop 1: Successful substitution:  
The EU's top priority risk reduction strategy
  - 3.2. Workshop 2: Getting the safety message across:  
communication of information about dangerous substances
  - 3.3. Workshop 3: Strategies and policies
- 4 Colloquium: keynote speeches and round table discussions
- 5 Overall conclusions and perspectives

different substances registered for sale in the European Union (?).

- Dangerous substances are found in nearly all workplaces from farms and factories to hairdressers and hospitals. Twenty-eight million workers inhale fumes and vapours for at least a quarter of their working time (?), while between 6 and 9 million people are exposed to biological agents at work. Skin complaints, lung disorders and cancers are just some of the risks.
- Occupational skin diseases cost an estimated EUR 600 million per year and occupational asthma EUR 400 to 800 million per year alone.
- Ninety-six percent of all businesses in the chemical industry — some 36 000 firms in total in the EU area — are small to medium-sized with little or no toxicological expertise. This high percentage of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is the same as in other industries that use chemicals in their processes and work operations such as the construction sector or the metal industry.
- A UK study demonstrated that only 12 % of EU enterprises complied with their regulatory duties in risk prevention with regard to dangerous substances (?).

# EW 2003 Campaign material

- **Fact sheets**
  - Introduction to DS in the Workplace
  - Elimination and Substitution of DS
  - Communication of information about dangerous substances
  - Respiratory sensitisers
  - Skin sensitisers
  - Biological agents
- **Report: Case studies of successful communication measures for information relating to DS**
- **Magazine**
- **Report - Good practice awards**
- **Dedicated multilingual Website:**  
<http://ew2003.osha.europa.eu>



# EU-OSHA publications highlighting chemical and biological risks to women and combined exposures!

- **Combined exposures to noise and ototoxic substances – literature review**
- **Factsheets on respiratory and skin sensitisers**, highlight exposures to biological agents in service sectors, health care, etc.
- **Reports on cleaners** – highlight exposures to precarious workers and lack of training and information
- **Report on HORECA and effects on Dangerous substances in HORECA** – highlights multiple exposures and lack of information
- **Legionella and legionnaires' disease: European policies and good practices, Report and Factsheet 100**
- **Monitoring of cancer risk factors and work-related cancer:** exposures to women overlooked, part-time working women excluded from some studies

## HWC 2018/19

### Main campaign goals presented in the campaign concept paper

- Promoting risk assessment, elimination and substitution, and the hierarchy of prevention measures
- Raising awareness of risks linked to exposure to carcinogens at work
- Addressing specific groups of workers
- Improving awareness of policy developments / legislative framework (REACH and CLP)



# HWC 2018/19 Campaign messages

- **Dangerous substances — they affect your workplace, too**
  - Raising awareness particularly in service jobs and SMEs
- **Dangerous substances — as relevant and important as ever**
  - Particular emphasis on process-generated substances
- **Always respect the hierarchy of prevention — step by step**
- **Substitution is possible**
  - tools and instruments to promote substitution; case studies on practical substitution.
- **Guidance and support are available — you can protect yourself and your workers from harm**
  - compilation of rel. material from the EU, its agencies and the Member States, as well as other important stakeholders. The compilation will cover:
    - risk assessment support (guidance, checklists and e-tools);
    - exposure assessment support (estimation tools, exposure assessments, rough orientating measurements);
    - good practice examples and case studies as models for practical solutions.
- **Pay particular attention to carcinogens**
- **Some groups of workers are especially vulnerable - take their needs into account**
- **Be aware that there is a strong legislative framework to protect workers from dangerous substances**

# HWC 2018/19 Proposed actions (1)

- Campaign info sheets on selected topics
- **Dedicated Campaign website**
- Database of case studies, instruments and tools, audio-visual and other good practice materials from the European and national level to be integrated in the campaign website
- **Revision of existing EU-OSHA publications, e.g. on practical prevention of risks from nanomaterials**
- Development of a Napo on fire and explosion risks or of a Napo on dusts (and if possible: Napo on carcinogens)
- **Promotion of existing EU resources, tools and instruments on risk assessment, awareness-raising and training, audio-visual materials**
- Development of an interactive e-tool on dangerous substance management for MSEs (language versions: Portfolio)
- **A seminar on e-tools in September 2017 will bring together tool developers**
- **Good practice award and collaboration with the Official Campaign Partners**
- **Facts and figures report**

## HWC 2018/19 Proposed actions (2)

- **Cooperation with other agencies**
- **Promotion of selected campaigning initiatives from the national level**
- **Organisation of national events and seminars**
- **Cooperation with official campaign partners (as in previous campaigns)**
- **Cooperation with other agencies**
- **Cooperation with social dialogue committees**

# HWC 2018-19

- **A solution-oriented approach**
- **Good practice focus**
- **Making use of existing approaches**
- **Making use of existing EU-OSHA publications**
- **Working in synergy with major stakeholders**
- **Cooperating with other EU agencies**
- **Sharing experience on tools, instruments and campaigns**
- **Cross-border cooperation of EU-OSHA Focal Points**
- **Materials that are easy-to-understand and easily accessible for SMEs and MSEs**

**Thank you for your attention!**  
**Elke Schneider, Lothar Lissner,**  
**Sarah Copsey, Marine Cavet,**  
**Annick Starren**

