

Global Exposure Manager



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www.ioha.net

ILO adopts new shipping safety code

Dr Thomas P. Fuller reports from a recent ILO meeting where experts adopted a code of practice on safety and health in shipbuilding and repair

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) meeting of experts to adopt a code of practice on safety and health in shipbuilding and ship repair was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 22-26 January 2018. For me, having worked in occupational safety and health (OSH) for over 37 years, being an official observer at the meeting was an incredibly exciting opportunity to see and experience the inner workings of an organisation I have followed for my entire career.

The last shipbuilding and repair consensus standard was published by the ILO in 1973. In the sectoral meeting I was attending, the organisation reviewed and revised a draft revision of the previous standard, line-by-line. The draft revision document had been written by a consortium of ILO employees and external sector experts, and is based on similar ILO health and safety documents. This way, the terminology and format remain as consistent as possible between consensus documents.

The attendees comprised eight experts from each of the three tripartite groups: labour, employers and governments. The government representatives were selected from China, Japan, Brazil, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Romania. It took five days to review the 152-page draft document but by early afternoon on 26 January, this was complete and the new [code of practice](#) for shipbuilding and ship repair was approved.

As an observer, I was not permitted to sit in the individual group meetings, but I think I got a good enough picture of the process by attending the larger plenary sessions. Not knowing the specifics of shipbuilding safety was not a particular disadvantage, since the codes of practice are mostly quite general in nature. Neither was it particularly important to be versed in maritime law or practice.

During my free time at the conference, I took the opportunity to meet with ILO staff and learn as much as possible about the organisation. I was able to meet with Casper Edmunds, head of the Manufacturing, Mining and Energy unit at the Sectoral Policies Department. We discussed how IOHA might be of use to the ILO and how our members could be more involved in ILO projects.



Dr Thomas P. Fuller was present as an observer

Mr Edmunds' group contains networks of professionals in the field who may be considered experts. When they do not have experts for a particular consensus-building project, they will seek and solicit experts from known contacts and sources. Existing representatives are available for each of the three expert areas - employees, employers and government - and they have a network of experts on a variety of topics.

One area of collaboration and IOHA involvement could possibly be to have members act as experts in the three representative groups. If the ILO can tell us that they are looking for a government expert in construction safety, for example, we could solicit someone from our organisation to attend the consensus meeting as a government expert in construction.

It is also possible to fill positions with IOHA experts representing labour or employers. The only requirement other than being an expert in the relevant field would be that the representative actually works in the sector he or she is to represent.

Moving forward, our goal should be to work more closely with Mr Edmunds and his group to see when they need experts in a

given area, and to make the appropriate contacts and subsequent nominations. This would be a win-win situation where the ILO would get recognised experts in OSH and IOHA members would have the experience of being on one of these international work teams.

I also met with Dr Susan Gunn. She has recently retired but had worked at the ILO for 16 years and carried out several studies on children at work. Her insights and perspectives on working children were invaluable. She took me around the offices of the Health and Safety group, where I met several interesting professionals, from statisticians to experts on slave labour.

Additionally, I met with the chief of Labour Administration and OSH and the IOHA 2018 plenary speaker, Nancy Leppink. We discussed ILO initiatives and methods in which IOHA might be able to collaborate on some of the projects. Discussions also took place regarding the ILO flagship programmes. These are ILO emphasis areas in the process of being developed, which will be strategic partnerships in a variety of topic areas.

One of the major initiatives is the development of a suite of assessment tools to be used by nations to assess their existing capacities for OSH. These could be used by institutions or individual professionals to assess such areas as healthcare facilities, public health services, educational systems and regulatory policy. The ILO has already developed tools for OH services, training, labour inspection and OSH laws.

It could be possible for IOHA members to collaborate with the ILO on the development of some of the future assessment tools. They are looking at creating tools for reporting systems, inspection systems, measuring worker engagement and safety culture, labour unions, professional associations and the ability to handle data.

Once the assessment tools are completed, they can be used in the field by auditors to measure and evaluate the OSH capacity of a nation or institution. This could be another area where IOHA members could be involved, working on OSH assessment teams. Ultimately, the assessments would identify areas where development is needed to fill gaps and improve existing programmes.

Projects could include such topics as the development of regulatory or inspection programmes, development of training programmes or educational courses or building medical clinics. Some of these activities could also be supported by IOHA members. Although most IOHA support could come from members in the form of volunteer services, there would also be opportunities to work as consultants for longer-term projects.

Discussions also centered on the Global OSH Coalition that was presented in Singapore in 2017. A steering committee has been created to develop project priorities and they will be forming work task groups for different projects. There will be two levels of membership in the coalition: steering and participatory.

There may be an opportunity for IOHA to be a participating member, but there may be restrictions due to limitations put on



The ILO meeting took place in Geneva

the coalition by the World Health Organisation. IOHA members may be able to assist the work of some of the task forces, but participation would be 'in kind' and members would be required to pay their own travel expenses.

On my last day at the conference, I met Claude Donald Loiselle from the Labour Administration, Labour Inspection and OSH Branch of the ILO. For many years, Mr Loiselle had worked in, or with, the International Centre for Health (CIS) of the organisation.

In 2013, many of CIS's activities were folded into other ILO departments and its current main focus is the support of regional and global OSH organisations and development of regional networks. Other projects involve the development of OSH knowledge and research capacity building, case study analysis of OSH networks, the role of governments in advancing labour initiatives and the capacities of non-governmental OSH organisations.

In relation to education and information, Claude has written two articles in the [January 2018 issue](#) of *International Newsletter on Occupational Health and Safety – Special Issue on Networking*. One focuses on understanding OSH knowledge agencies and the other is about a new ILO web portal covering OSH agencies, institutions and organisations.

My overall impression is that the ILO is a large organisation where new endeavours and partnerships take time to develop and nurture. Perhaps I was most impressed by and appreciative of the people that I met. They represent the best of OSH professionals: intelligent, diligent, resilient and thoroughly dedicated to worker health and safety.

Besides thinking of ways our members can help the ILO, I would like to remind everyone that the ILO holds a wealth of knowledge and resources on a wide variety of OSH topics. If you have an idea for a project, are looking for specific information, or would like to find a contact person at the ILO to speak with, please do not hesitate to contact me at tpfuller1@gmail.com.

Budget proposes consolidation

President Trump's budget proposal for the 2019 fiscal year is seeking to consolidate the activities and research of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Niosh), including the Energy Employee Occupational Injury Compensation Act programme, within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and to cut its budget by \$135 million.

Niosh, which is currently part of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), would initially be established as a new NIH institute, but could eventually become more fully integrated into existing NIH institutes and centres.

The budget reductions would include eliminating Niosh's education and research centres, and stopping direct federal funding to support academic salaries, stipends, and tuition and fee reimbursements for occupational health (OH) professionals at universities. CDC would take over the World Trade Centre Health Programme.

The budget also proposes replacing the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, on the basis that its work duplicates that of others, and the Susan Harwood training grants of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Osha). The proposal described these as "unnecessary and unproven".

For more information:

www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/

Vietnam event seeking partners

Vietnam's National Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health (NIOEH) has announced that it is looking for sponsors, exhibitors and volunteers to be a part its 5th International Conference on Occupational & Environmental Health. This takes place on 10-12 September in Hanoi, with the theme 'Occupational health and environment: Challenges and opportunities in sustainable development'.

The conference will examine workplace safety and environmental health conditions, and methods to evaluate and control hazards. It is an opportunity for local and international scientists to exchange information and experiences on research studies on maritime safety, occupational safety and environmental health (OSEH), school health, and intervention measures on health promotion and protection for workers, school children, and community.

Participants will include local and international scientists and policymakers in the field, including the WHO, Niosh and OHTA. The event aims to provide a platform to: share information on research and interventions in OSEH; partner internationally on areas of mutual interest; share training methods and opportunities; and promote the international transfer and adaptation of new OSEH knowledge.

For more information:

<http://nioeh.org.vn/tin-tuc/the-5th-international-conference-on-occupational-and-environmental-health>

European associations identify key topics

The seven European professional associations who set up a European platform for OH professionals in late 2016 have identified three technical topics requiring in-depth exchanges and this has led to the publication of an opinion and operational recommendations. The three are:

1. Alignment of hazard band systems;
2. REACH and the Chemical Risk Directive; and
3. Control and evaluation of occupational dermal exposures to carcinogens and mutagens.

The platform is currently planning a workshop on the first subject during 2018 and will continue to communicate its activity via GEM and online throughout the year. The associations involved are: NVvA in the Netherlands; BSOH in Belgium; DGAH in Germany; SSHT in Switzerland; Sofhyt in France, AIDDI in Italy; and AEHI in Spain.

For more information:

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Honour for past BOHS president...

The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) has announced that its past president Trevor Ogden was awarded an OBE in the 2018 New Year's Honours list, for services to OH and workplace air quality, following in the footsteps of three previous presidents. Mr Ogden was the president of BOHS in 1991. His other notable achievements include:

- Editing the *Annals of Occupational Hygiene* (now known as *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*) 1997 to 2012;
- Developing a method to measure the inhalation hazard of radon progeny in flammable atmospheres, which became a standard method for these measurements in British coal mines; and
- Developing the Regulatory Interlaboratory Counting Exchanges (RICE) quality assurance scheme and methods of internal quality control, which are still in use 35 years later.

For more information:

www.bohs.org

...and for OHTA co-founder and past IOHA president

The Occupational Hygiene Training Association (OHTA) co-founder and director Noel Tresider was recently awarded the title Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia in the 2018 Australia Day Honours List. He was honoured for significant services to workplace health in the field of OH and to the promotion and development of standards and training.

Mr Tresider is also a former president and treasurer of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH). Within IOHA, he served as president in 2011-12 and also chaired the National Accreditation Recognition Committee for six years, helping to establish and lead a process to recognise excellent quality national qualification processes in OH. He was also a board member of Workplace Health Without Borders from 2005 to 2017.

For more information:

www.ohlearning.com/news/noel-tresider-awarded-member-of-the-order-of-australia.aspx

Niosh proposes 20 more drugs for special handling information

Niosh has proposed that 20 new drugs, along with two others that already have special handling information specified by the manufacturer, should be added to the agency's hazardous drug list for healthcare settings this year. It also proposed to add botulinum toxins as a group to the list. Comment is being sought up to 16 April.

The Niosh List of Antineoplastic and Other Hazardous Drugs in Healthcare Settings builds on a 2004 alert that warned healthcare employers and workers of the risks of working with hazardous drugs and discussed measures they could take to protect their health. It has since been updated four times, with 34 being added on the last occasion in 2016.

For more information:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/02/14/2018-02957/niosh-list-of-antineoplastic-and-other-hazardous-drugs-in-healthcare-settings-proposed-additions-to>

HASANZ Register now open

The HASANZ online register of verified workplace health and safety professionals in New Zealand is now officially "open for business", having already opened for health and safety professionals in December 2017.

The New Zealand Occupational Health Society (NZOHS) described this as "a one stop shop for businesses to find reliable, quality health and safety advice and services" at no cost. Independent consultants and in-house professionals, both generalists and specialists, who meet the required competency standards of a HASANZ member association can list on the register.

For more information:

<http://nzohs.org.nz/hasanz/>

LMU offers English courses

Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) in Germany is offering online modules in scientific English for OSH experts in Latin America. These courses are part of LMU's Master International Occupational Safety and Health qualification and aim to address the need for more experts with English proficiency at a scientific level in the region.

The next registration period opens in April and courses will take place from July to December. They last 14 weeks, cost €750 and are conducted online in Spanish in a way that is "perfectly compatible with any work schedule", according to LMU.

The course is based on interactive and problem-based learning, enabling participants to improve their English skills by reading scientific articles related to OSH, exercising their reading and hearing comprehension and practising their oral and written expression. They will also acquire knowledge in presentation and discussion techniques in English for OSH-related topics.

For more information:

www.osh-munich.de

New Osha publications address silica

Osha has issued a revised fact sheet on its respirable crystalline silica standard for general industry and maritime settings. This provides a basic overview of respirable crystalline silica, how workers can be exposed and when employers are required to comply with the standard, with additional information such as examples of dust control methods.

For more information:

<https://www.osha.gov/pls/publications/publication.html>

OH 2018 bookings open

The BOHS has announced that bookings are now open for its OH 2018 conference in Stratford-upon-Avon, UK, on 17-19 April, preceded by professional development courses on 16 April. The conference will bring together researchers, practitioners, regulators and other experts from around the world to discuss the latest in issues that affect health at work.

One key feature is the Warner Lecture, given this year by Simon Harmer, a former army combat medic who also took part in triathlons and cross-country skiing. In 2009, he received injuries from an explosion. With support, he rebuilt his life and threw himself into different challenges. Later, he became a volunteer ambassador for several service charities. He will talk about his experiences and what he has learned from them.

For more information:

www.oh-2018.com

AIHA launches e-learning course

The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) has launched a new online self-study course called 'How to assess and manage nanomaterial risks'. This is intended for industrial hygienists responsible for the health and safety of workers exposed to nanomaterials and contains 3.5 hours of instructional video and related activities.

This course, the AIHA said, "will provide a disciplined process for the responsible management of nanomaterials. Participants will be guided through an example of creating a sampling plan, evaluating data and control recommendation. Using nanomaterial exposure scenarios, participants will create a sampling plan, analyse provided data and decide if engineering controls should be added to the risk management plan."

For more information:

<https://www.aiha.org/education/eLearning/Pages/How-to-Assess-and-Manage-Nanomaterial-Risks.aspx>

I AM IH/OH contest

The AIHA has invited all IOHA affiliate organisation members to participate in a worldwide call for 'I AM IH/OH' selfie photos and videos that may be chosen for inclusion in a special montage for an upcoming episode of the award-winning documentary 'I AM IH', which will debut at IOHA 2018 in Washington, DC, in September. Submissions will be accepted via the registration page of the website between 1 January and 30 April.

For more information:

www.aiha.org/events/IOHA2018/Register/Pages/IOHA-Submit-a-Selfie.aspx

SAIOH and AIHA co-host Durban event

Training attracts 34 from across southern Africa

Under the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Southern African Institute for Occupational Hygiene (SAIOH) and the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), SAIOH organised and co-hosted an international training event in occupational hygiene (OH) at Durban University of Technology (DUT) in South Africa, from 4 to 7 December 2017.

The course was presented by international discipline experts representing AIHA and the Indiana University Fairbanks School of Public Health (FSPH) in Indianapolis. Planning for its delivery started during 2016, as part of the collaborative partnership between SAIOH and AIHA, which encompasses “technical cooperation in a number of activity areas, including joint collaboration in the field of OH, such as training courses, seminars and conferences”.

SAIOH decided to offer the course on a break-even model, charging the lowest possible registration fee to cover costs it

would incur for accommodation, the travel expenses of the course trainers and expenses related to course logistics and participant training materials. A discounted registration fee was offered to students, to maximise the benefit which can be derived from this type of expert training, including networking opportunities, discussion forums and first-time exposure to certain topics for some of the attendees.

As a further benefit, which was also negotiated between SAIOH and AIHA, course participants were given the opportunity to purchase three of AIHA's e-books at a significantly reduced cost - approximately 80% off the AIHA non-member pricing - through SAIOH. These were on:

- assessing and managing occupational exposures;
- a noise manual; and
- evaluation, control and management of the occupational environment.

Photo credits: SAIOH and DUT



Vote of thanks – Muriel Mogane, chair of the SAIOH KwaZulu-Natal branch, hands a gift of appreciation to the main course presenter, Dr Steven Lacey, while his fellow presenters, Drs Emily Abonen and Perry Logan, look on



Relaxation mode – Course presenters and hosts at the Hlubulwe Nature Reserve, post-training course. L to R: Drs Emily Abonen, Steven Lacey, Ivan Niranjani, Perry Logan and Jakes Jacobs

Photo credits: SAIOH and DUT



Striking a pose – Participants and presenters of the International Course in Occupational Hygiene, hosted by SAIOH and DUT, 4-7 December 2017

The training course, which was CPD-accredited by SAIOH and the South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (Saiosh) for their respective members, was attended by occupational hygienists and other occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals, including environmental consultants.

Participants came from as far afield as Botswana and Mozambique to take part. Seven of the nine student participants were from DUT. In all, 34 participants attended the course, representing associations and organisations across various sectors, including:

- Occutech;
- Apex Environmental;
- Engen Oil;
- SAPREF - a Shell-BP joint venture;
- Toyota;
- Tongaat Hulett Sugar of Botswana;
- Mozal Aluminium Smelter of Mozambique;
- Metso Minerals;
- Petra Diamonds; and
- SA Forestry Company (Safcol).

The training programme spanned a range of topics relevant to practitioners in OH and OSH, including:

- the evaluation and control of chemical and physical hazards;
- ergonomics and human factors;
- psychosocial factors in the work environment;

- statistics for OH practice coupled with the presentation and interpretation of data sets using statistical tools;
- field skills; and
- the evaluation of interventions.

The discipline experts who facilitated the training were Drs Steven Lacey, Emily Ahonen and Perry Logan. All are members of AIHA.

Dr Lacey is a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional, with a PhD in industrial hygiene. He is the immediate past-president of AIHA, as well as an associate professor and chair of the Department of Environmental Health Science at Indiana University FSPH. His current research is on medical laser health and safety.

Dr Ahonen is an assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Health Science and the Department of Social and Behavioural Sciences at FSPH. With a PhD in public health, her areas of research are work and housing as they interact with health and well-being, and the evaluation of interventions to address various public health challenges. She has also worked in health promotion with migrant agricultural workers in Michigan.

Dr Logan, a certified industrial hygienist with a PhD in environmental health, is the global manager for 3M Corporate Ergonomics, Industrial Hygiene. He studies all aspects of the disciplines of environment, health and safety, with areas of interest in leadership, competency development, auditing, exposure risk assessment and management, ventilation design, and Bayesian and mathematical exposure modelling.

SAIOH would like to extend a special vote of thanks to Shakeel Ori, director of cooperative education at DUT, for his proactive contribution to arranging the venues, student support, transport and catering logistics, and for making his staff members readily available for assistance with the training course.

It also appreciates the efforts of two members who represented both associations at the course for their on-the-ground support and assistance with various aspects of the training and for hosting the visiting course presenters:

- Dr Ivan Niranjana, senior lecturer in the Environmental Health programme, Department of Community Health at DUT, and immediate past chair of the SAIOH KwaZulu-Natal branch, recently appointed by the Minister of Labour as OSH Advisory Council member for OH; and
- Peter-John (Jakes) Jacobs, SAIOH council member and past president, and IOHA president-elect for 2018.

The association also acknowledges Claudina Nogueira, SAIOH council member responsible for the liaison portfolio, for much of the behind-the-scenes work and planning of the training course, and Kate Smart in the SAIOH office, for administrative support.

Upcoming meetings

Occupational Hygiene 2018

16-19 April 2018, Crowne Plaza, Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon, UK

Organised by the British Occupational Health Society (BOHS), this is the UK's main conference in the field of worker health protection, focusing on occupational hygiene (OH) and the prevention of occupational ill-health and disease. It will include three days of keynote speakers, oral presentations, themed sessions and workshops, bringing together researchers, practitioners, regulators and other experts from around the world to discuss issues that affect health at work. Professional development courses also take place on 16 April.

www.oh-2018.com

32nd International Congress on Occupational Health (ICOH)

29 April-4 May 2018, Convention Centre Dublin, Ireland

Organised by the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, ICOH seeks to: cover a wide range of occupational, safety and health (OSH) topics, demonstrating how research translates into excellence in practice; advance research and evidence-based approaches to OSH by promoting local, regional and global examples; and offer a blend of sessions that will demonstrate the scope of OSH practice and how that can effectively protect and promote the health of all workers.

www.icoh2018.org/wp/

American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHce EXP)

21-23 May 2018, Philadelphia Convention Centre, US

AIHce EXP is an event for industrial hygiene (IH) and OH professionals at all levels, specialities, and expertise. It comprises: education on IH and OH, networking opportunities and an exhibition featuring hundreds of exhibitors displaying innovative products and services. The main conference on 21-23 May is sandwiched by professional development courses that take place on May 19, 20, and 24. Participants can also earn 18 certification maintenance contact hours for the year at one conference and receive access to AIHce OnDemand free to the end of 2018.

www.aihce2018.org/Pages/default.aspx

11th IOHA International Scientific Conference

24-26 September, Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, US



Under the theme *Bringing better health to workers worldwide*, this is a scientific and technical conference for OH professionals from across the globe. The conference will offer high quality scientific and technical content, as well as plenty of opportunity for networking. It is expected to gather about 1,000 experts from the fields of OH, exposure science, toxicology, ergonomics, epidemiology, occupational medicine and health, and risk management. An exhibition runs in parallel with the conference, which is also preceded by two days of professional development courses on 22-23 September.

www.aiha.org/events/IOHA18

Advance Rate Registration Opens in March!

Don't forget to register early and save! IOHA 2018 Advance Rate Registration opens Friday, March 30, 2018 and closes on July 22, 2018. Attendees can save \$100 on Standard Registration or take advantage of the "Stay and Save" discount to save even more money. [Visit here](#) for full details.



Visit our website for an up to date list of events:
www.ioha.net/ioha-events

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Thomas Ashton Institute opens in UK

The Health and Safety Executive and the University of Manchester have launched an institute for risk and regulatory research. Emma Davies talks to its co-director, Professor Andrew Curran

Data will be at the heart of a new UK institute for risk and regulatory research, which is a partnership between the University of Manchester and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Based at the university, the Thomas Ashton Institute is intended to act as a source of health and safety knowledge and expertise, as well as offering training.

“One of the most important things to say about the institute is that we are not there to do blue-sky research; we are there to develop simple, practical solutions to real workplace problems,” says Professor Andrew Curran, who is the co-director of the institute, as well as being the HSE’s chief scientific adviser and director of research.

The institute will run a series of research programmes, including one on health and well-being, which will look at how occupational data collection could be modernised. Health areas to be covered will include respiratory diseases induced by chemical exposure in the workplace.

“Manchester has a whole series of data mining and data interpolation activities going on that are enabling us to do what we haven’t been able to do before,” says Professor Curran. For example, the institute will digitise swathes of HSE data so as to find ways to help ensure that workplace ‘mistakes’ are not repeated as new technologies and industries emerge.

“We want to make sure that all of the available evidence is being used appropriately to better inform duty holders and businesses as to what the risks are and to enable them to do appropriate and effective risk assessments themselves,” he adds. “We are moving away, perhaps, from some of the traditional approaches that we have used in the past, and on to novel methods that access data in different ways.”

Wealth of data

One of the advantages the institute enjoys, according to Professor Curran, is that it already has a lot of data. The HSE benefits from having already set up a regulatory intelligence hub, which brings together data from around government.

“We have got that working so we know that we can join data sets and interrogate them in ways that we haven’t been able to before,”

he says. “The trick now is to gain agreements from organisations to access their data ... and then start to look for patterns.”

The institute will work closely with industry. “We would never do this on our own. We would always go through that process of engagement to make sure that what we are developing is answering real world questions,” says Professor Curran.

Training

The institute will offer training in the UK and beyond to help to identify and minimise workplace risks. For example, the HSE and the University of Manchester have already worked together to provide virtual training in Singapore.

“Our longer-term intent is to make sure that we are not just thinking about issues from a UK perspective. We are thinking about what these issues are globally,” says Professor Curran.

The HSE has a long history of working with the University of Manchester. For example, the university runs the agency’s surveillance of work-related and occupational respiratory disease (SWORD). In 2015, data from this revealed a significant decline in asthma cases linked to workplace exposure to diisocyanates from paints used in vehicle repair. The drop coincided with the HSE putting in place a method to screen for urinary hexamethylenediamine, a biomarker of exposure to hexamethylene diisocyanate.

“Since we have been offering that measurement technique, we can see that the levels have fallen significantly in terms of exposure,” says Professor Curran. “The study is a good example of the HSE and the university working to the same end. Building on that success, the institute will run other similar projects, he adds. “In addition to our own data, we will be looking to see what other data is out there.”

Professor Curran is keen to ensure that successful projects can be extended to include new data sources and that the databases are set up to answer key questions. One of the ‘learning points’ from the HSE’s work with the university, in his view, is that “in order to create real intelligence you need good contextual information and appropriate subject matter experts”.

“By coming together, we have a faculty of world-class subject matter experts. We also have a lot of contextual information, given the relationships that we have with industrial partners,” From a data perspective this is a “really interesting and exciting time”, he concludes.

This article has been reproduced from Chemical Risk Manager

Malaysia: Strengthening collaboration for greater impact

MIHA has kept busy in promoting industrial hygiene over the past few months

The Malaysian Industrial Hygiene Association (MIHA) values collaboration as a key to success in highlighting the importance of industrial hygiene (IH), so as to reach out to the nation and hence have a greater impact. In doing this, it aspires to strengthen IH practices in Malaysia through collaborations with stakeholders, including government officials, industry, universities and other national and global occupational safety and health (OSH) associations.

On 28 September 2017, the association organised a courtesy visit to the offices of the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) and met the newly appointed deputy director general for occupational health (OH), Ir. Hj. Kormain Hj. Mohd Noor, to seek views on future MIHA programmes to strengthen IH practices.

The meeting went well and key agreements were achieved that include DOSH support for collaboration with MIHA on the proposed programme to upgrade IH awareness and practices among SMEs. DOSH also gave a positive response for MIHA to pursue its certified professional industrial hygienist (CPIH) scheme, in gearing towards achieving and maintaining the highest standards of IH.

On 8 October, MIHA was invited to participate in the 'OSH in school' programme, 'Building safety inspection training', which

was organised by the Malaysian Society of OSH, in collaboration with Architect Centre and the Malaysian Institute of Architects.

The training covered theoretical aspects of defects and hazard identification in building and a practical session, which was held at one of the schools in Petaling Jaya. This session allowed MIHA and other OSH practitioners and volunteers to enhance their knowledge, while also inculcating health and safety practices in daily life, both at school and at home.

In addition, 5 December 2017 saw another milestone for MIHA at the 35th Annual Australian Institute of Occupational Hygienists (AIOH) conference. Here, the association president, Norhazlina Mydin, formalised ties with the AIOH through a memorandum of understanding that will strengthen the capability and professionalism of practitioners in both countries.

Moreover at this event, an MIHA member, Thum Khai Meng, won the South East Asia Support Package from AIOH. This will surely promote the growth of the profession in Malaysia.

Shortly after, on 14 December, MIHA conducted an IH capability workshop 2017 at the G-Tower hotel in Kuala Lumpur with the participation of various IH-competent people in Malaysia and support from DOSH. The workshop discussed issues and challenges faced by various responsible workers, that is:

- Chemical health risk assessment (CHRA) assessor;
- Hygiene technician 1 (chemical exposure monitoring);



MIHA committee members held a courtesy visit to DOSH office to strengthen collaboration



MIHA participated in the 'OSH in school' programme, successfully organised by MSOSH

- Hygiene technician 2 (chemical engineering control effectiveness); and
- Noise competent person.

It also discussed a proposed intervention plan via which MIHA can get involved, with support from other stakeholders. The deputy director general and his delegates from DOSH participated and shared valuable insights with the team during the workshop.

There will be further IH development, and through collaboration much more can be achieved, so that together we can create a greater impact globally. Furthermore, MIHA adds value to its stakeholders as support for its IH outreach programme by contributing speakers to various conferences and other events which have recently included the following:

FMM Perak Safety, Health and Environment Conference 2017

Organiser: Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM), Perak
Date: 23 August 2017
Venue: Casuarina Hotel, Perak
Speaker: Atika Anuar, CPIH

Enhancing IH practices - orientation day for UKM students

Organiser: National University of Malaysia (UKM)
Date: 4 September 2017
Venue: UKM, Bangi, Selangor
Speaker: Megat Azman Megat Mokhtar

Promoting MIHA to UKM students - FMM Negeri Sembilan OSH conference 2017

Organiser: FMM, Negeri Sembilan
Date: 10 October 2017
Venue: Palm Seremban Hotel, Negeri Sembilan
Speaker: Ng Hon Seng

Elevating IH in the manufacturing industries - 5th Borneo conference and exhibition on OSH

Organiser: National Institute of OSH (Niosh), Malaysia
Theme: Enhancing OSH for business competitiveness

Date: 13–14 November 2017

Venue: Hilton Hotel, Kota Kinabalu

Speaker: Marina Zainal Farid, CIH, CPIH

Title: Implementation of classification, labelling and safety data sheet (CLASS) 2014 regulations in Malaysia

Last but not least, and aligned with its mission, MIHA continues to organise various training programmes aimed at enhancing IH knowledge and awareness. Training events that have recently been conducted include:

Sharing knowledge on noise control for government officers of DOSH

Date: 19 September 2017
Venue: DOSH Office, Putrajaya
Trainer: Professor Park Doo Yong, CIH

Ventilation in confined space and local exhaust ventilation (LEV)

Date: 20–21 September 2017
Venue: Niosh office, Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor
Trainer: Professor Park Doo Yong, CIH

Asbestos management programme

Date: 22–23 November 2017
Venue: Corus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur
Trainer: Wan Sabrina Wan Mohamad, CIH, CPIH and Swee Siang Ng

Industry code of practice CLASS 2014 implementation for chemical classifiers

Date: 5–7 December 2017
Venue: St Giles Wembley Hotel, Penang
Trainer: Anuar Mohd Mokhtar, CPIH

Introduction to the guidelines on the OSH for design, inspection, testing and evaluation of LEV systems

Date: 21 December 2017
Venue: Denso, Bandar Baru Bangi, Selangor
Trainer: Ir. Nimi Ahmad

IOHA Collaboration Award 2018

Recognise successful partnerships and celebrate collaboration

Collaboration is key to everything IOHA believes in and stands for. IOHA recognizes the need for sharing ideas and communicating its achievements in the community of occupational hygienists. Behind each successful project is a solid and dependable partnership that seeks to deliver excellence and offers models to inspire others.

The Collaboration Award celebrates an OH/OH organisation who has chosen to collaborate with other countries or organizations to share ideas and technologies to improve the calibre of occupational hygiene worldwide. The person/organisation who has achieved outstanding results by collaborating with others will be granted the award. The project should raise awareness for others that collaboration can be an effective strategy to improve outcomes, increase efficiency, and maximize impact.

NOMINATIONS

- ◆ Only IOHA member associations can make a nomination for one project/collaboration
- ◆ One of the nominees must be a member of an IOHA member national organisation
- ◆ The collaboration can be among IOHA members/organisations or IOHA member(s) working with other stakeholders/parties. In the nomination, all parties must be mentioned.
- ◆ The collaboration can relate to:
 - knowledge and practice of the profession of occupational hygiene
 - development and promotion of practical solutions in the field of occupational hygiene

INFORMATION SUBMISSION

The submission needs to include:

- ◆ Biographical details of the parties involved
- ◆ A max. 500 word abstract of the collaboration addressing:
 - The reason for the collaboration
 - The case study
 - The solution and the outcomes/impact
- ◆ A three minute video which tells the story of the collaboration

PROCESS

- ◆ Nominations for the Collaboration Award must be submitted before **May 13, 2018** to **admin@ioha.net**
- ◆ Nominations will be judged by an independent jury
- ◆ Nominees will be informed before **June 30, 2018**

PRIZES

The Award will consist of an honorarium covering travel costs (economy fare), hotel lodging and registration for the IOHA 2018 conference in Washington.

The costs will be paid for a maximum of two persons representing both parties of the collaboration

IOHA will ensure maximum recognition for the award-winning collaboration by featuring it on multiple platforms, including the IOHA Conference, social media and IOHA website!

The winners will present their project in a presentation during the conference.

The winners will be interviewed for *Global Exposure Manager*, the IOHA Newsletter.

News from:

Chemical Risk Manager

Taiwan sets 1-bromopropane workplace exposure limit

27 February 2018

Taiwan's Ministry of Labour (MoL) has set a workplace air exposure limit for 1-bromopropane and stricter limits for several other chemicals, which comes into effect on 1 July. This followed a 60-day public consultation and an executive order on 27 December 2017. The limits are:

- 1-bromopropane: 0.5 ppm over an eight-hour period;
- acetone: 200 ppm over an eight-hour period (down from 750 ppm);
- vinyl chloride: 1 ppm (down from 3 ppm); and
- hydrogen bromide: a maximum exposure ceiling of 3 ppm in a one-hour period.

Fines equating to between \$1,000 and \$10,000 will be imposed for each breach under the Occupational Health and Safety Act. The MoL also said that employers are responsible for adopting effective measures against occupational injuries and illnesses from excessive exposure to the substances, notably ventilation, training and ensuring the use of facemasks and other personal protective equipment (PPE).

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/64230

EU-Osha announces healthy workplace campaign

22 February 2018

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-Osha) has announced that its Healthy Workplace campaign for 2018-19 will focus on managing dangerous substances. The campaign, which will be fully launched in April, aims to raise awareness of the risks posed by dangerous substances in the workplace and to promote a culture of risk prevention. Key objectives include:

- raising awareness of the importance of preventing risks from dangerous substances;
- promoting risk assessment by providing information on practical tools and creating opportunities to share good practices;
- heightening awareness of the risks linked to exposures to carcinogens at work;
- targeting groups of workers with specific needs and higher levels of risks by providing tailored information and examples of good practices; and
- increasing knowledge of the legislative framework that is already in place to protect workers.

EU-Osha conducts these campaigns every two years as a flagship awareness-raising activity. They are the main way of getting its message to workplaces across Europe. The campaigns are backed by EU institutions and European social partners.

The association has also called for nominations to its good practice awards. It is particularly looking for examples that demonstrate a holistic approach to OSH management, and real improvements in the use and handling of dangerous substances that ensure safe and healthy working conditions.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63630

Fifth of US asthma deaths “linked to occupational exposures”

20 February 2018

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has studied the 33,307 deaths from asthma among 15- to 64-year-olds across the US between 1999 and 2016. It found that up to 20%, almost 7,000 might be “attributable to occupational exposures and were therefore preventable”.

Construction workers exposed to welding fumes and isocyanates in paints and healthcare workers exposed to cleaning products and disinfectants were among those most at risk. An estimated 184 men died in the construction industry from asthma caused by occupational exposures – 13.2% of all male asthma deaths – as did 279 women working in healthcare – 14.0% of all female asthma deaths, the CDC said.

The figures were based on data from the National Vital Statistics System and also reviewed information from the International Classification of Diseases 10th Revision, the 2000 census, and occupation and industry information from 26 states for six years between 1999 and 2012. It was published in CDC's *Morbidity and mortality weekly report*.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/64030

HBM4EU to develop chromium biomonitoring test

16 February 2018

Europe's most extensive human biomonitoring project, HBM4EU, is to develop methods for measuring chromium in exhaled breath condensate (EBC) as part of its research. This will involve studying 50 workers at three to five companies in at least eight of the EU member states participating in the project.

According to the chromates research team, the biomonitoring will involve measuring levels of hexavalent chromium in urine, blood plasma and red blood cells, as well as levels of both hexavalent and trivalent chromium in EBC. Analysis of chromium in EBC is not well established, and will require method development and validation, the plan says.

Hexavalent chromium is on the REACH authorisation list and is the subject of a proposed mandatory occupational exposure limit (OEL) under the carcinogens and mutagens Directive (CMD). HBM4EU identified it as one of ten priority substances or substance groups when the project was launched. Workers in areas like surface treatment and stainless steel welding remain exposed to it, however, and current systems of monitoring are not adequate.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/64005

France gives guidance on monitoring DCM in workers

12 February 2018

The French Agency for Food, Environmental and OSH (Anses) has approved the biological limit values (BLVs) proposed last year by its committee of specialist experts for occupational exposure to dichloromethane (DCM). They are:

- 0.2 mg/litre and the corresponding biological reference value 1.6 mg/L for DCM in urine; and
- 3.5% and the corresponding biological reference value of 1.5% for blood carboxyhaemoglobin, which applies only to non-smokers.

DCM is a chlorinated alkane widely used as a solvent in industrial and research settings. It has a mandatory category 2 carcinogenicity classification under EU CLP and its use in paint strippers is restricted in the EU under REACH.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63823

South Korean study investigates worker lead exposure

9 February 2018

Researchers in South Korea have estimated that nearly 130,000 workers there were exposed to lead in 2010. Their work is part of a project to develop a national version of the widely used carcinogen surveillance system, Carex. This is due to be completed in 2022.

The team, lead by Dong-Hee Koh from Incheon's Catholic Kwandong University, used three nationwide data sources to obtain database-derived prevalences of lead exposure across industries.

These were:

- airborne lead measurement data from the work environment measurement database;
- blood lead measurement data from the special health examination database; and
- lead exposure prevalence computed using data from the work environment condition survey.

After reviewing the results, the researchers then asked a panel of 52 experts about the prevalence of lead exposure across different industries. The study concludes that this work "may offer an unbiased approach to the development process that accounts for the uncertainty in exposure".

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63747

PPE, workplace hygiene associated with reduced spray painter neurotoxicity

9 February 2018

A study in New Zealand has found that using PPE and good workplace hygiene can significantly reduce the risk of symptoms of neurotoxicity in vehicle repair spray painters exposed to solvents. The study, published in the *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*, looked at exposure control measures including PPE use, hygiene practices and symptoms of neurotoxicity at 267 workplaces.

For painters who consistently used both gloves and a respirator, there was a 90% reduction in risk, the study found. Frequent use of both was strongly associated with reduced symptoms of neurotoxicity in a dose-dependent manner, with the best protective effect found for consistent glove use. Poor practices, such as solvent exposure to multiple body parts, were similarly associated with increased symptoms.

Lead researcher Sam Keer, from the Centre for Public Health Research at Massey University in Wellington, recommended that

spray painters wear PPE during all operations where exposure to solvents may occur. "However, it is important to remember that PPE is purely a mitigation measure, and should not be relied upon to prevent workers being exposed," he added.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63765

European partners sign joint position

5 February 2018

Pan-European trade union IndustriAll and the European Chemical Employers Group (ECEG) have signed a joint position statement. They agreed that DG Employment's Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (Scoil), which sets Europe-wide OELs, and Echa's Risk Assessment Committee (Rac), which manages the REACH process, should cooperate more fully.

The two said they were in favour of streamlining processes, speeding up procedures at the EU level and avoiding duplication of work. They disagreed with calls from some quarters for a merger of the two bodies as their respective compositions, procedures and purposes are too different, but said that bringing them under one umbrella organisation, such as the European Chemicals Agency (Echa), was an idea worth exploring further.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63713

US OH agencies "should improve collaboration"

2 February 2018

A new report from the US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) has concluded that the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) should work with Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the states, to establish and strengthen regional OSH surveillance programmes.

Currently there is no single, comprehensive surveillance system in the US, and the principal focus has been on collecting data on health outcomes. The report, *A smarter national surveillance system for occupational safety and health in the 21st century*, said that an improved system would minimise the undercounting of occupational injuries and illnesses by making strategic use of different datasets and surveys, while maximising appropriate use of technologies.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63615

Japan proposes prior permission for asbestos samples

17 January 2018

Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has proposed a change to its Industrial Safety and Health Act, allowing the manufacture of some samples of asbestos for analysis and use in research. At present, the production of asbestos and preparations containing it is completely banned.

The proposal was notified to the WTO, which was accepting comments until mid-March. Adoption was expected shortly after

and enforcement is planned from June onwards. The proposal also states that manufacturers must take measures to protect the health of the workers involved, including medical examinations and monitoring of the working environment.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63121

CMD amendment comes into force

12 January 2018

The first of three planned amendments to the EU CMD came into force in January, following publication in the *Official Journal* on 27 December 2017. Member states have two years to transpose this into national law. The amendment, which was agreed by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers in December, introduces new exposure limits for 13 substances, including respirable crystalline silica dust, benzene and vinyl chloride monomer.

The second batch proposes changes for seven substances, including trichloroethylene and 4,4'-methylenedianiline (MDA). A third batch of amendments is subject to an impact assessment that will end on 25 December. The stated aim of the change is to better protect workers from cancer-causing substances.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/63039

Experts clash over dermal exposure method for VOCs

9 January 2018

A debate over the suitability of activated carbon or charcoal cloth (ACC) pads for measuring dermal exposure to volatile organic compounds (VOCs) has erupted in the *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*.

In a letter to the editor, Professor John Cherrie, a former president of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) who published on the same topic in 2006, called the method described by a team from the University of Leuven and Janssen Pharmaceuticals as "wholly unsuitable" for the purpose.

Using Permea-Tec ACC solvent sensors as described in the Belgian study, he said, risks:

- oversampling of vapour compared with liquid;
 - rapid saturation with liquid, even with small sample volumes; and
 - failure to account for evaporation of VOCs from the skin.
- Instead, he recommended using a simple model of dermal exposure loading, such as the RiskOfDerm model, coupled with a model to estimate intake while accounting for evaporation, such as the IH-SkinPerm model.

The original study, funded by the Belgian government, described a "robust and sensitive" method for quantitatively assessing skin exposure to 181 VOCs. Team leader Jeroen Vanoirbeek has since published a further defence of it.

For more information:

www.chemicalwatch.com/crmhub/62897

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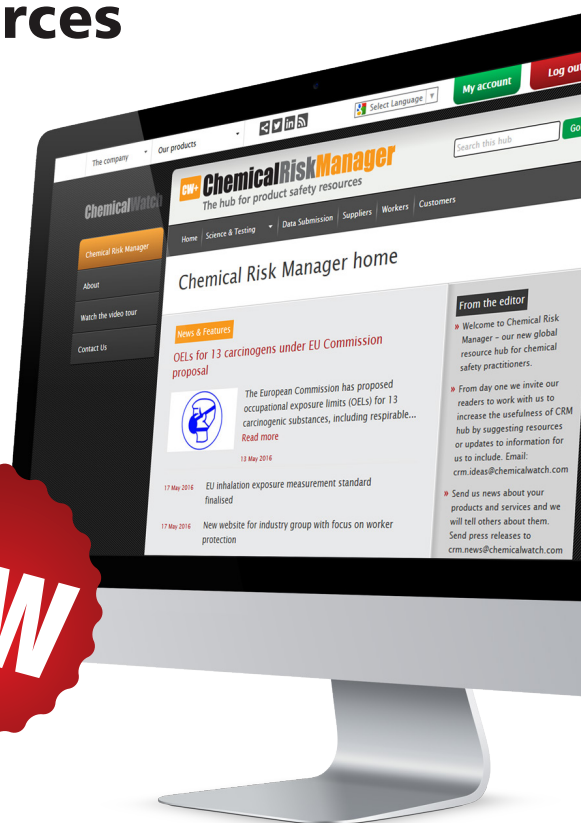
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