



EU OSHA Campaign on Dangerous substances – the relevance for pest control

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Hazards and risks in the pest control industry (ILO)

Slips, trips, falls

- Falls from height

Musculoskeletal problems

- Carrying loads and poor work posture

Biological agents

- Zoonotic disease transmitted by pests/vectors

Dangerous substances

- Substances being used
- Exposure to environmental substances

Psychosocial risk factors

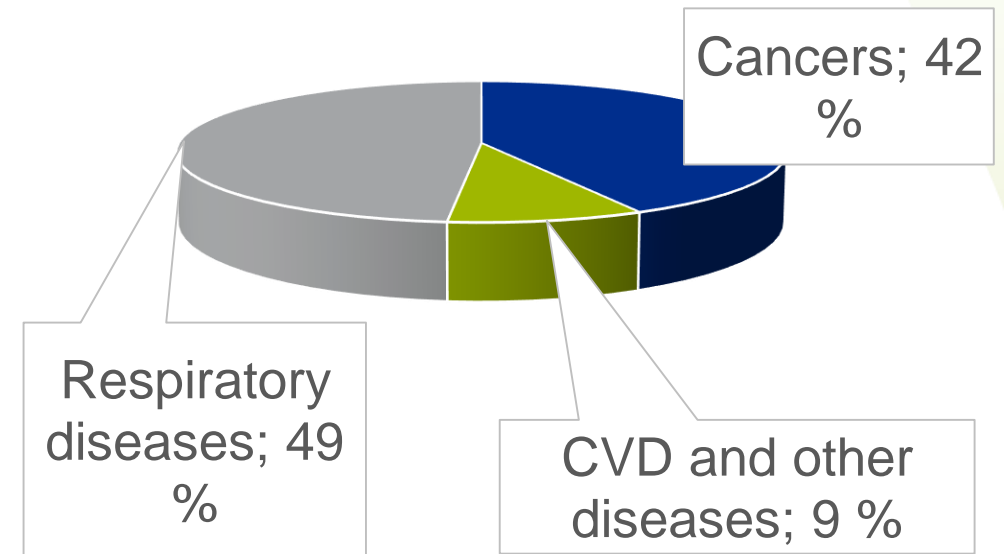
EU OSHA report on emerging issues relating to biological risks (2007)

- Global epidemics (SARS, Avian flu, A/H5N1, dengue fever...)
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Lack of information on biological risks
 - Leading to inadequate risk assessment, and
 - Inadequate information and training for workers
- Poor maintenance of water and air systems (legionella)
- Combined exposure to biological and chemical agents
- Endotoxins (e.g. E.coli)
 - Complex relationship between exposure and immunity
- Indoor moulds and quality of indoor air
- Worker exposures during waste treatments

The problem with dangerous substances

- In 2015, an estimated 980 000 workers globally died at work due to hazardous substances
- Dangerous substances are in particular causing cancer and respiratory diseases
- Occupational exposure to carcinogens cause 80 000 deaths per year in the EU

Estimated global deaths from hazardous substances (2015)



Does pest control have a problem with dangerous substances?

EU OSHA examined sectors:

- In 50%+ of EU 28
- Where 30%+ of workers in reported potential exposure to dangerous substances
- This includes Sector N81 (Services to buildings and landscape activities)
- **8129 Other cleaning activities includes pest extermination, fumigation and hygiene contracting**

EU OSHA identified 2800+ dangerous substances and where they appear

No. subs.	NACE	Sector
929	C19	Shops + vehicle repair
469	N81	Services to buildings
222	S96	Personal services
171	H50	Water transport

Pest control is in a high-reporting sector with many dangerous substances used

“Healthy Workplaces Manage Dangerous Substances”

- Raise awareness of the problem
- Inform of the legal requirements
- Inform of solutions
- Provide tools to support action
- Focus on vulnerable groups
- Address carcinogens



Campaign content



OM EMNET

VERKTØYER OG PUBLIKASJONER

ENGASJER DEG!

KAMPANJEPARTNERE

Hva er farlige stoffer? Finnes de på min arbeidsplass? Hvordan kan de identifiseres og håndteres? Våre verktøy og publikasjoner kan hjelpe deg med å finne svar på disse spørsmålene og gjøre håndtering av farlige stoffer på arbeidsplassen så enkelt som mulig.

De inneholder nyttige ressurser om gjeldende regelverk og hvordan det skal anvendes. Interaktiv infografikk og audiovisuelt materiell får fram den mest relevante informasjonen på en klar og tydelig måte og er viktige verktøy i arbeidet med å øke bevisstheten om temaene.

Videre gir kampanjemateriellet og -verktøykassen deg de ressursene du trenger for å engasjere deg i kampanjen.



> Publikasjoner



> Praktiske verktøy og veiledning



> Kampanjemateriell



> Case-studier



> Regelverk



> Farlige stoffer e-verktøy



> Kampanjeverktøykasse



> Napo-film

Managing dangerous substances



Get the basics right



Follow the prevention hierarchy



Face up to carcinogens



Some are at more risk than others



Getting the basics right.. Two stories

Leadership



Active worker engagement



The prevention hierarchy: Case study - Estonian cleaning sector

- **Risk assessment considering workforce diversity and type of work**
 - Female workers – 80%, Average age of workforce >50 years
- **Limiting of exposure to dangerous substances through:**
 - Ongoing engagement with supply chain for effective supervision
 - *How* materials supplied as well as what (to minimise mixing / dosing errors)
- **Rigorous management of chemicals inventory**
 - Three standard items in the cleaning inventory – colour coded
 - Limited availability of more dangerous substances
- **Strong focus on training tailored to demographic of workforce**
 - Recognition that there is a lot of lone working making supervision difficult
 - Ensuring understanding of risks and requirements (e.g. PPE)
 - How to prepare, use, and dispose of materials

Multi-factorial solutions required for complex challenges

Face up to carcinogens

STOP!

- **Substitute**
- **Technical measures**
- **Organisational measures**
- **Personal protective equipment**

Workers that are regularly exposed to diesel exhaust fumes have an increased risk of developing lung cancer

Case study

- UK waste management company has fleet of diesel vehicles
- Invested in proactive vehicle maintenance so emissions reduced (and fuel economy increased)
- Put improved exhaust systems on vehicles
- Installed LEV in workshops
- Introduced overnight charging system for electrical devices so diesel engine does not have to run to provide power on site

Some are at more risk than others

Diverse workforce means that “risk profile” may vary

- Temporary workers and shift workers may miss out on training
- Migrant workers may not understand instructions
- Young workers may lack maturity
- PPE may not be designed for women



<https://imgur.com/gallery/HQOtt>

<https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-publications/publications/controlling-chemicals-cleaning-sector-less-more/view>

How can I join in?

- Take action in your workplace
- Organise an event
- Use campaign materials
- Enter the Good Practice Awards Competition
- Talk to the focal point
 - Gro Synnøve Rygh FÆREVVÅG
 - focal.point@arbeidstilsynet.no
- Watch NAPO - <https://www.napofilm.net>



All information available for download free of charge



healthy-workplaces.eu

OSHA.EUROPA.EU