

Note for the attention of Tim Bowmer, Chairman of the Committee for Risk Assessment

Ref: Request to the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) to provide an evaluation of occupational exposure limits (OELs) for nickel and its compounds, acrylonitrile and benzene

The Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) ('the Committee') is requested to evaluate the scientific relevance of occupational exposure limits (OELs) for nickel and its compounds, acrylonitrile and benzene.

1. Background

The Commission requested ECHA (in their letter Ref. GL/ps ARES env.b.2(2017)1407647 of 8 March 2017) to evaluate, in accordance with Directive 98/24/EC on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work (CAD) and/or Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work (CMD), the following chemical compounds: 4,4'-methylenebis[2-chloroaniline] (MOCA), arsenic acid and its inorganic salts, nickel and its compounds, acrylonitrile and benzene.

This mandate concerns the three substances (nickel and its compounds, acrylonitrile and benzene).

2. Terms of Reference

The Committee is requested to review, evaluate the information already available and assess the most recent scientific information on:

- nickel and its compounds,
- acrylonitrile
- benzene

The aim of the opinions (on each of the three substances) is to support the Commission, by providing scientific advice, in taking action on the Proposal to amend Directive 2004/37/EC (4th amendment). The opinions shall include a recommendation to the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (ACSH) in line with the OSH legislative procedures and, on request of the Commission, the SCOEL-format in drafting their opinions shall be used.

3. Timescale for the RAC opinion

In order to support the Commission in proposing these three substances in the 4th amendment to Directive 2004/37/EC, the RAC opinions would need to be provided to the Commission by **26 March 2018**. To this end, detailed timelines will be prepared and agreed with the Committee.

4. Remuneration

The task for RAC following from this request is not considered to fulfil any of the requirements of a transfer of funds to the competent authorities of the Member States pursuant to Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) 340/2008 and therefore no remuneration will be paid by the Agency.

SIGNED

Geert Dancet
Executive Director

Cc: Jukka Malm, Jack de Bruijn