



Screening: Explanatory Meeting Occupational Safety & Health

Brussels, 8 February 2006





Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

1. Objective

- To set minimum requirements on workers' protection against health and safety hazards related to chemical agents at work, or resulting from any work activity involving chemical agents





Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

2. Key provisions

- Scope: The Directive shall apply where hazardous chemical agents are present or may be present at the workplace, without prejudice to the provisions for chemical agents to which measures for radiation protection apply pursuant to Directives adopted under the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community





Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

2. Key provisions (cont'd)

Employer's obligation

- to carry out a risk assessment
- to eliminate or reduce risks by design and organization of work systems
- to provide suitable equipment
- to reduce to a minimum the number of exposed or likely-to-be-exposed workers
- to reduce to a minimum the duration and intensity of exposure





Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

2. Key provisions (cont'd)

- to take appropriate hygiene measures,
- reduce the quantity of chemical agents to the minimum required and suitable working procedures
- to monitor levels of exposure
- to review assessment after change of work practices / conditions
- to sample and measure using standard methods

Commission Directive 2000/39/EC establishes the first list of indicative occupational exposure limit values





Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

3. Implementation

- **Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values (IOELVs)**

IOELVs may be established where the review of the available scientific data leads to the conclusion that it is possible to identify a clear threshold dose below which exposure to the substance is not expected to lead to adverse health effects.



Directive 98/24/EC - chemical agents

3. Implementation (cont'd)

- Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values (BOELVs)

BOELVs take account of socio-economic and technical feasibility factors as well as factors considered when establishing IOELVs.



Directive 2000/54/EC - biological agents

1. Objectives

- Protection of workers' health and safety against risks arising or likely to arise from exposure to biological agents at work
- Prevention of risks

Biological agents include micro-organisms, cell cultures and human endoparasites causing infection, allergy or toxicity





Directive 2000/54/EC - biological agents

2. Key provisions

- Biological agents are classified into four groups according to their level of infection risk
- Principle of substitution: the employer shall avoid the use of a harmful biological agent if the nature of the activity so permits, by replacing it with a biological agent, not or less dangerous to workers' health





Directive 2000/54/EC - biological agents

3. Implementation

- Member States shall establish arrangements for carrying out relevant health surveillance of workers for whom the results of the assessment referred to in Article 3 reveal a risk to health or safety
- Member States shall communicate to the Commission the provisions of national law which they adopt in the field governed by this Directive.



Physical Agents

Discussions started at Council level in 1999 during German Presidency.

Initial proposal was split in four directives.

Two first directives “Vibrations” and “Noise” were adopted by the EP and the Council in 2002 and 2003.

- 16th individual Directive 2002/44/EC on vibration**
- 17th individual Directive 2003/10/EC on noise**
- 18th individual Directive 2004/40/EC on MMF**
- 19th individual Directive 2005/XX/EC on optical radiation**



Directive 2003/10/EC - Noise

1. Objective

To lay down minimum health and safety requirements regarding exposure of workers to the risk arising from noise

Vibration sources also often noise sources





Directive 2003/10/EC - Noise

2. Key provisions

- set physical parameters to measure noise, i.e. peak sound pressure, daily noise exposure level and weekly noise exposure level.
 - exposure limit value = 87 decibels
 - exposure action values =
 - lower value = 80 decibels
 - upper value = 85 decibels





Directive 2003/10/EC - Noise

3. Implementation

– by February 2006





Directive 2003/10/EC - Noise

Deal with it by management	Remove or reduce the need to carry out the noisy process Have a "no noise or no noise" purchasing policy so that noise outputs are considered when buying work equipment
Deal with it at source	Go through the work equipment to find the actual source(s) of noise and address these
Deal with it collectively	Take steps to protect all in the workplace, e.g. by putting in acoustic insulation, changing the work organisation
Deal with it at an individual level	Providing personal protective equipment where required (e.g. ear plugs)
Always assess the risks first, and consult with the workers!	





Directive 2002/44/EC - vibration

1. Objective

To improve protection of workers against risks from exposure to mechanical vibration setting minimum requirements for the prevention of vibration-related ill health.





Directive 2002/44/EC - vibration

2. Key provisions

- Exposure action value (EAV)
If exceeded, the employer shall establish and implement a programme of technical and/or organisational measures
- Exposure limit values (ELV)
if exceeded, the employer shall take immediate action to reduce exposure below the ELV





Directive 2002/44/EC - vibration

2. Key provisions (cont'd)

- Training "More Information, More Protection" for workers
- Consultation and involvement of workers in decision process on matters covered by the directive
- Health surveillance to give an early indication of vibration-related ill health and to provide the employer with information on the effectiveness of the control measures





Directive 2002/44/EC - vibration

3. Implementation

- by July 2005.
- Priority to collective protective measures over Individual protective measures - PPE
 - How? design of workplaces, choice of work equipment, methods, organization of work etc.





Directive 2004/40/EC - electromagnetic fields

1. Objective

- To protect workers from risks due to induced currents, energy absorption and contact currents

2. Key provisions

- Use of interlocks and shielding could be necessary

3. Implementation

- by 30 April 2008