An initiative for SLIC on Long Latency Diseases

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Chair SLIC CHEMEX WG
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A Collaborative Approach across NLIs

- SLIC Plenary agreement to development of proposals for a collaborative approach on Long Latency Diseases (Vilnius, November 2013)

- SLIC agreed to focus on Respirable Crystalline Silica [RCS] (Athens, May 2014)
  - Possibility of a second topic later – welding fume?

- SLIC CHEMEX WG to lead, liaising with SLIC Enforcement WG
What is SLIC hoping to achieve through the collaboration (1)?

Improve the prevention of occupational disease across EU MS, through:

- Greater access to learning from the successful ‘approaches’ used by NLIs and their partner organisations
- Having easy to use knowledge sharing arrangements, to enable such ‘shared information’ to be accessed and searched
- Potential to influence the supply of machinery standards/design of equipment
- Potential for a collaborative project on developing a particular ‘approach/product’
Particular interest in equipping inspectors to improve compliance and risk control, thereby reducing exposure via:

- Ways to promote **sustainable behavioural change** in workers/employers
  - This includes providing suitable guidance and training for inspectors to help improve control against risks from RCS exposure in the work place and compliance

- Improving **design of work processes and equipment**
Sectors/Industries Affected

- Construction
- Quarries
- Stoneworkers
- Brick making
- Foundries
- ........
Significant exposure to RCS may lead to:

- Silicosis
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Heavy and prolonged exposure may lead to lung cancer after a silicotic condition.

On-going consideration of Binding Occupational Exposure Limit at EU Level (0.1 mg/m³).

RPE and LEV are fundamental to adequate control in many places.
Membership RCS subWorking Group

From CHEMEX WG Group:

- Jens Ahman (SE)
- Darren Arkins (EI)
- Nathan Kuper (NL)

Joined by:

- Dimitri Deconinck (BE)
- Irena Dimitrova and Violeta Dobreva (BG)
- Diana Gagliardi and Piero La Pegna (IT)
- Chris Snaith (UK)
Primary need is to give general inspectors confidence to address RCS dust.

Emphasis on control of exposures (risk assess just to give controls to follow-up not as ‘end point’ – get away from ‘admin measures’ and unnecessary measurements per se)

……..“Hygiene without numbers”

Focus probably on construction, using NEPSI’s work to support inspection in other sectors.
RCS WG to produce short guidance sheets for inspectors (not books which remain unread!) – and probably an overarching document giving background, including giving inspectors the compelling facts for “Why RCS?”

- The number of guidance sheets is yet to be discussed, but to address common problems from inspector’s point of view.
- Likely extensive use of visual images – to get attention and show what is ‘good’ & ‘bad’
Include case studies, with costings

Consider complementing with inspector training materials

Lots of ideas and good materials to share – we need to filter and sign-post in guidance to other sources of information (some for inspectors, others for specialist occupational hygienists)
RCS subWG Vision:

“Make tackling RCS as common as the hard hat on construction sites” !!

Longer term:

- Move on to other topics
- Possible link to future SLIC campaign???
RCS WG: Knowledge Sharing

Created on CIRCA–BC:
SLIC Long Latency Interest Community (SLIC LLIC)

- Initial folders (spaces) created:
  1. RCS Working Group Documents
  2. RCS Inspector Guidance
  3. RCS Useful Information

- Access as required; initially RCS subWG and CHEMEX WG.
Next action for RCS subWG

- NEPSI – understand background and sensitivities then make contact

- Share NLI information via CIRCABC Long latency Interest Community (LLIC)

- Consider inviting OSHA EC representative to have input – expertise on dissemination/communications

- Go back and consult, share via SLIC LLIC

- Short paper for SLIC Plenary in Rome November