

An initiative for SLIC on Long Latency Diseases

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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’

What is SLIC hoping to achieve through the collaboration? (2)



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
- ▶

Why is RCS an issue?



- ▶ 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/m^3)
- ▶ **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 Dobрева (BG)
- ▶ Diana Gagliardi and Piero La Pegna (IT)
- ▶ Chris Snaith (UK)

Initial thoughts (1)



- ▶ 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**

Initial thoughts (2)



- ▶ 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’

Initial thoughts (3)



- ▶ 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*)

Initial thoughts (4)



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