

STOFFENMANAGER

At USE2009 the results of a Dutch prevention programme on hazardous substances was presented. Within this programme a risk assessment tool for SMEs was developed, Stoffenmanager (www.stoffenmanager.nl). Stoffenmanager has been designed for SMEs and provides an answer to questions like: "where are my risks and how can I control these so that our employees stay healthy?" With the help of Stoffenmanager companies are able to identify the chemicals they are working with and prioritize dangerous substances. They can also estimate potential health risks when working with these chemicals.

A lot has changed since Stoffenmanager was been developed over ten years ago. Firstly, Stoffenmanager was validated. As a result, companies can use Stoffenmanager to perform exposure assessments in the context of the Chemical Agents Directive and REACH. Because of these developments Stoffenmanager has been acknowledged by the Dutch Labour Inspectorate and ECHA (European Chemicals Agency)

Secondly, the number of users has grown up to over twenty thousand as this moment. This growth was due to the fact that Stoffenmanager was translated into multiple languages (Dutch, English, Finnish and German). In order to structure this process a 'Translation' platform was built in order to manage the translations process and to keep all languages up to date.

Thirdly, the intensive use of Stoffenmanager led to new user requirements and further development of the tools. This is only possible with a sustainable business plan. Therefore the freemium model was introduced, meaning there is a free basic package suitable for SMEs just starting with Stoffenmanager or having a limited number of substances. Stoffenmanager Premium package has been developed besides the free basic package. The Premium package offers different features for customers who have many products and perform many calculations and exposure estimations. Additionally, the Premium package offers for Stoffenmanager the possibility to execute a sustainable business plan.

Fourthly, Stoffenmanager is as good as its intensity and the way it is being used. Therefore, a seven steps implementation ladder was developed and validated within 45 companies. Through training and meetings, on site visits by the companies' personal coach and an online platform with background information it was possible for most of the companies to move one or more steps up the ladder.

Finally, maintaining an instrument like Stoffenmanager is an ongoing process. Continuous changes in relevant regulations and scientific developments result in a monthly new release of Stoffenmanager, applying minor and major changes. This is the reason why Stoffenmanager has adapted the open innovation philosophy. Stoffenmanager needs the cooperation with various organizations.