The KemiGuiden e-tool incl. Quick start

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Background

- Comparative pilot study of chemical risk management in small and large companies (2002)
- Result: MSE have two main questions
  - What are the requirements on us?
  - What do we need to do to comply with the requirements?
- Large companies have more detailed and subtle questions, e.g. how should this paragraph be interpreted?

- Need for support, especially for MSE
  - Focus on compliance with regulatory demands
  - Focus on good practice on how to comply (not on the regulations as such)
  - Good to cover all chemical regulations, incl. environment as MSE often do not differentiate between OSH and the environment
  - Simple and easy to use
KemiGuiden

- An e-tool published in 2003, [www.kemiguiden.se](http://www.kemiguiden.se)

- Still in use and updated, around 4 000 visitors/month

- Focus on safe handling and management of chemicals products (not on information on toxicity)
Advice available when you need it
Supports reactive strategy, which is common in MSE
Information tailored to needs

Questions generate a diagnose of the conditions and needs in each individual company
Tailored advice
Several interactive guides
  – Quick start
  – My Chemical guide
  – Reach Guide
The dictionary gives a good overview of what KemiGuiden is about

-Certain activities and professions, e.g. hairdressers, welding
-Certain chemical products, e.g. isocyanates, lead
-Vulnerable employees, pregnant women, minors, working alone
-Routines that needs to be in place, e.g. SDS, purchasing routines, safety instructions
-Control measures (the hierarchy of control)
-(Notifications and permissions for certain chemicals)
-(Transport)
-(Manufacturers of chemical products and the Seveso-directive)
Development and testing of the website

- Development based on
  - results from the pilot study
  - previous research and projects aiming at understanding small enterprises
  - Previous evaluations of tools providing support to OSH management

- Evaluation and testing of a beta-version of the website
  - In co-operation with a reference group from the social partners and the authority (the reference group is still active)
  - Evaluation and testing of the tool through “Think aloud” – sitting beside test persons from MSE who use and comment on the web-site
  - Possible to leave comments on the website via a link / mail
Strengths and weaknesses

**Strengths**

- Obviously, the tool is used by many MSE (according to the registrations during the first years)
- Assistance in diagnosing the chemical management in companies and needs for improvement
- Provision of concrete advice on what to do which reduces the need for MSE to interpret complex legislation
- Options to either use the dictionary to solve concrete and limited problems or use the interactive guide to get a comprehensive diagnose of the companies management of chemical risks

**Weaknesses**

- Reaches mainly those who are interested or have got aware of a need
- Can easily be perceived as too extensive - regulations include many detailed demands. KemiGuiden covers most of them which are relevant for downstream users.
- Need for continuous updating as the regulations are continuously changing
- We would like to add more illustrations ....
Challenges in the development and management of the website

- Interactive e-tools were not common in 2003
- The interactive guide could be perceived as too long. Need for something more simple. Development of the Quick start (7 questions instead of around 60) (published in 2011)
- Close cooperation with a good and flexible IT-consultant *Happiness*
- First version used a tailored IT-platform which grew out-dated ("internet spiders" destroyed some pages which were re-created)
- Need for a new IT-platform – a tedious process to develop and move the website to the new platform (around 2011)
- Technical development leads to new demands – next step – a responsive website which can easily be read with cell phones?
Dissemination of KemiGuiden

- Aligned with an EU campaign on chemical health hazards in 2003
  - The website was launched as part of the Swedish campaign and in co-operation with the trade unions, employers organisation and Swedish Work Environment Authority
  - Seminars throughout Sweden
  - Information via the social partners
- Recurring information campaigns since then
- Links from websites, e.g. from the authority and part of Prevents information on chemical risks
- Recurring discussions on co-operation with suppliers of chemical products, but difficulties to establish this (not a common OSH dissemination strategy). For MSE, suppliers are the natural contact regarding most questions that concern chemical products
Current development

- Translated to English in order to be used as part of the EU campaign on chemicals in 2018
  - Translation to other languages possible for those EU members that want to use the e-tool
  - Adaptation of the content to EU-directives and Reach
  - Possible to add advice related to specific national regulations
  - Need for continuous updating and adaptation to new EU regulations

- Administrative considerations
  - The web-site is owned by Prevent and the authors have rights relating to the text
  - No commercial interest. Developed through research grants. We are positive to translation and further dissemination

- Ongoing project – development of a chemical risk assessment module, KemiRisk intended to be included in the Swedish version of KemiGuiden
Development of EU-OSHAs e-tool

- Similar to KemiGuiden

- Interactive guides providing tailored feedback and support
  - Quickstart, 7 questions
  - Your Chemical Guide, maximum of 36 questions (interactivity = questions that based on previous answers are not relevant, are omitted)

- Dictionary, where you can search for and find advice on good practice in order to comply with the legislation (for content, see slide 5)
Questions in Quickstart (short versions)

1. Do you know the risks associated with the dangerous substances at your workplace?
2. Have you got some kind of inventory of the chemical products and substances present and used at your company?
3. Do you have up-to-date safety data sheets for the chemical products present and used in your company?
4. Do you use and understand the safety data sheets?
5. Do you want to check if you use any of the most common dangerous substances?
6. Do you have the permits needed for the chemical products you use and have you made the notifications required?
7. Have any employees had health complaints or been ill because of exposure to dangerous substances in your workplace?
Just to clarify ...

- The e-tool does not provide information about the toxicity of chemical substances or products, but it describes how that information can be found (through safety data sheets).

- What is good practice about?
  - Not about the legislative requirements.
  - Concrete advice, e.g. on process ventilation, how skin contact can be avoided, information to and training of workers, storage of chemical products etc = management of the chemical products & substances
  - Good practice is what MSE ask for, when they say “just tell me what I need to do, to comply with regulatory requirements”