Workers promoting substitution: case studies, tools, databases

Substitution and alternatives
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Workers promoting substitution

- Workers and unions roles promoting safer alternatives.

- Case study: substitution of hazardous solvents in Spain

- Conclusions/lessons
Workers promoting safer alternatives

Promotion of the adoption and enforcement of policies, programs and regulations on substitution.

Promotion of scientific and technical fora on substitution and safer alternatives.
Awareness building,

Training,

Development of materials and tools to help identify, assess and compare hazardous substances and alternatives,
Workers promoting safer alternatives

Promotion of substitution through collective bargain agreements.

Promoting substitution in companies through bargain with management, participation in Health and Safety Committees, and in EMAS.
Substitution of hazardous solvents in Spain

Project: Prevención y control de sustancias disolventes peligrosas

Aim: To prevent and control the exposure to most hazardous solvents (CMR & TPB) through worker participation.

Where: Aragón, Cantabria, Catalunya, Madrid & País Valenciá (Spain)

When: 2007 and 2008

Who: ISTAS and E,H&S technicians of CC.OO.
ACTIVITIES:

Identification of products containing solvents

Characterization of hazardous properties

Information to workers and company Reps

Substitution of most hazardous products
Europe Union legislation guarantees:

Workers right to access company information on health and safety issues (Directive 89/391/EEC and Regulation 1907/2006)

Public access to environmental information (Directive 2003/4/EC)
¿Uses of solvents? Companies do not know what substances they use.

MSDS

Tradeunion technicians visits to companies

Project database “DISOLVENTES”
EU: 40% of MSDS contain errors in the classification of products (1).

Not all ingredients are included (only substances classified as hazardous)

Important to check information: databases, scientific literature, etc.

Characterization of hazardous properties

Databases:

ESIS (http://ecb.jrc.it/esis)
TOXNET (http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov)
IARC (http://monographs.iarc.fr/)
SCORECARD (http://www.scorecard.org)
PAN (http://www.pesticideinfo.org)

IFCS (http://www.who.int/ifcs/en)
EU workers right to participation on company H&S issues (Directive 89/391/EEC)

Workshops, reports, brochures, booklets...
EU legislation:

Carcinogens and mutagens: companies shall replace C&M by less hazardous alternatives (Directive 90/394/EEC).

VOCs: Companies shall replace CMR solventes (Directive 1999/13/EC).

EU and international legislation and policies target also R, ED, TPB as substances of high concern (REACH, Stockholm, OSPAR, etc.)
Substitution of most hazardous products

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON ALTERNATIVES:

Workers and other company departments
Suppliers
Databases
Industry and trade associations
Technical Institutes industry/government
Academia
NGO
SAFER ALTERNATIVES DATABASES:

CLEANTOOL (http://www.cleantool.org)
PPGEMS & CleanerSolutions Database (http://www.turi.org)
PESTICIDES (http://www.pesticideinfo.org)
USEPA Pollution Prevention Programs (http://www.epa.gov)

IFCS substitution and alternatives tools (http://www.who.int/ifcs/en/)
Substitution of most hazardous products

Base de datos de ALTERNATIVAS a sustancias tóxicas y peligrosas

Esta base de datos ofrece documentos sobre sustancias químicas alternativas (baja-muy baja toxicidad), con canales de acceso comercial a los mismos, así como procesos y tecnologías alternativas y experiencias de sustitución, que pueden ayudar a prevenir el riesgo químico en tu empresa.

La búsqueda se puede realizar por sustancias, usos/productos, procesos o sectores, seleccionando el que te interese de la relación que aparece pinchando sobre su icono

SUSTANCIAS  USOS/PRODUCTOS  PROCESOS  SECTORES

Se puede consultar la lista completa de experiencias de sustitución, documentos incluidos en la base de datos y enlaces a otras páginas web que consideramos de gran interés.

EXPERIENCIAS  DOCUMENTOS  ENLACES
Worker Reps activities:

Demand companies to comply with legislation and substitute CMR.

Inform authorities when companies refuse to comply.

Negotiate substitution of other substances of high concern (TPB, ED,..)
Results (May 2007/ May 2008)

228 companies visited
1061 products analyzed
66 hazardous products substituted
134 hazardous products in process of substitution

Substitution of hazardous solvents in Spain
Workers are important stakeholders for the substitution of hazardous substances.
Key elements for the promotion of substitution of hazardous substances:

**Regulatory framework:**

- Guarantee worker and citizens right to information and participation.
- Oblige companies to substitute substances of high concern.
Publicly accessible databases:
uses of substances,
hazardous properties,
alternatives.

Training and technical support for workers
and companies
Gracias por su atención.