

Introduction

Manufacturing or using nanomaterials may result in exposure of workers to nanoparticles. The common reference for the assessment of a safe workplace is the health-based recommended occupational exposure limit (HBR-OEL). For nanomaterials HBR-OELs have not yet been derived. Under REACH the derivation of DNELs (derived no-effect levels) is foreseen, for substances brought at the market at high volumes. With REACH coming at age it is expected that the amount of DNELs generated by the industry will rapidly grow. To date however, almost no DNELs have been derived for nanomaterials and the high market volume may be a further drawback for their rapid development.

The lack of health-based standards for nanomaterials combined with their increasing use in many different workplaces and products emphasize the need for a reliable temporary risk assessment tool. Therefore, to allow industry to safely work with nanoparticles precaution-based nano reference values (NRVs) are being derived.

These NRVs are a risk management tool for employers and employees when working with nanoparticles. The general precautionary adage is exposure minimisation, but NRVs may be considered as a warning level. When exceeding this level measures should be taken to identify the source and if possible the reduce the emission of nanoparticles.

The pilot NRV is an initiative of the Dutch Trade Unions and Dutch Employers organisations. It is carried out by IVAM UvA, Industox and the University Twente.

This workshop highlights experiences with the use of NRVs, discusses its usefulness as voluntary risk management tool and reflects on the different voluntary risk management approaches for nanomaterials in western countries.

Participation of experts, policy makers and stakeholders, employers and employees working with nanomaterials and involved in discussions on safe working with nanomaterials is highly welcomed.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is obligatory.

Organization and information:



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Registration:

<http://www.ivam.uva.nl/index.php?id=nrviw>



Programme

International workshop

Nano Reference Values as provisional substitute for OELs and DNELs for nanoparticles



Thursday, 29 September 2011
The Hague, Netherlands

Social and Economic Council (SER)
Bezuidenhoutseweg 60
2594 AW Den Haag
The Netherlands

Nano Reference Values as provisional substitute for OELs and DNELs for nanoparticles

10:00	Arrival , registration, coffee	14:00	<i>Focus on a particle approach to assess risks of nanomaterials</i> Hildo Krop (IVAM)
10:30	Opening Chairman: Ferdinand Grapperhaus (chairman Commission Working Conditions, Social Economic Council)	14:30	<i>The NIOSH-approach to uncertainties in standard setting for nanomaterials - State of the art of Occupational Exposure Limits for NM</i> Paul Schulte (US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health)
10:40	<i>Position of the Dutch industry on safe working with nanomaterials</i> Willem-Henk Streekstra (VNO/NCW)	15:00	<i>Initiatives in France for a precautionary nano-workplace oriented governance</i> Gérard Lasfargues (Deputy Director general for Scientific Affairs, French agency for food, environmental and occupational health and safety)
11:00	<i>Position of the Dutch Trade Unions on safe working with nanomaterials</i> Wim van Veelen (FNV)	15:30	<i>The British approach to the management of potential risks from nanomaterials</i> John Cherrie (Institute of Occupational Medicine, Edinburgh, UK)
11:20	<i>The IFA approach of Guidance values for nanomaterials- theory and praxis</i> Markus Berges (Institut für Arbeitsschutz der Deutschen Gesetzlichen Unfallversicherungen)	16:00	Tea break
11:50	<i>Presentation of the findings of the pilot NRV</i> <i>Feasibility and comprehensibility of the concept of nano reference values</i> Pieter van Broekhuizen (IVAM UvA)	16:20	Round table discussion Chairman: Lucas Reijnders Jorge Costa-David (European Commission, DG Employment), CEFIC, speakers Pro's and con's of a voluntary approach for nanomaterials' risk management are discussed. Discussion on several thesis.
12:25	<i>Nano reference values and responsible governance of nanotechnology and nano- business</i> Bärbel Dorbeck-Jung (University Twente)	17:30	Drawing conclusions for further acceptance of the NRV approach Lucas Reijnders
12:50	Lunch	17:40	Closing of the workshop Ferdinand Grapperhaus
		17:45	Drinks and social gathering