

Focus on IFA's work

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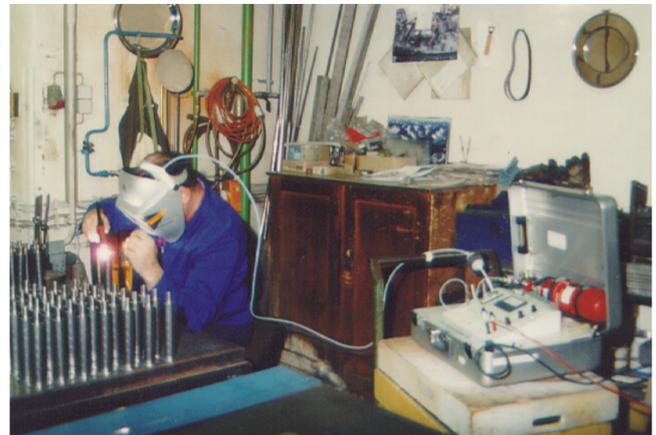
EGU Recommendations Hazard Identification of the Accident Insurers (EGU)

Problem

If suitable protective measures are not taken, contact with hazardous substances at workplaces may expose employees to considerable health hazards. The legislator therefore requires as part of the risk assessment that hazardous substances arising at the workplace be identified, and the necessary protective measures defined. These tasks are known to place an excessive burden upon many companies; in particular, the requisite measurement of the hazardous substances in the workplace atmosphere is highly cost-intensive. The Recommendations for Hazard Identification of the Accident Insurers (EGU) constitute standardized working procedures in accordance with the TRGS 400 technical rules. Companies can use them to detect and assess hazards presented by hazardous substances without the use of measuring systems.

Activities

In conjunction with the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) and with further experts where applicable, the statutory accident insurance institutions and the IFA are developing Recommendations for Hazard Identification of the Accident Insurers (EGU; previously BG/BIA recommendations for risk assessment) in accordance with the German Ordinance on Hazardous Substances (GefStoffV).



Measurement of ozone exposure during welding work

The recommendations are generally based upon the results of representative exposure measurements performed in plants. The recommendations provide employers with practical instructions for the conducting of risk assessments, a description of suitable safety measures, and instructions on monitoring their efficacy.

After examining the suitability of the EGU recommendations for transfer to his own business setup, the employer can adopt them and thereby considerably reduce his own assessment costs. This is particularly relevant where measurements are concerned, which in some cases may even become completely unnecessary.

Results and Application

The sectors, workplaces, substances and processes for which EGU have already been drawn up include the following:

- Construction sector: exterior paints, floor coverings, power trowels, wood preservation, adhesives, parquet, testing of asphalt, road millers
- Trades sector: bakeries
- Paper processing: adhesives, publication gravure, rotogravure package printing and flexography
- Hospitals: anaesthesia workplaces, sterilization, disinfection
- Waste management: manual dismantling of electrical appliances
- Electrical industry: soldering work
- Metalwork: galvanic and anodizing processes, hard metal workplaces, cooling lubricants, welding work
- Glassfibre: weaving plant
- Tasks involving other complex hydrocarbon-containing mixtures
- Vehicles at test stations: roadworthiness tests, repair work, safety tests

Owing to the changes to the structure of the body of regulations, older EGU are currently being revised and incorporated into the new DGUV informative publications 213-701 ff. (formerly BGI 790). In addition, they are available on the Internet and distributed in relevant sectors by the German Statutory Accident Insurance Institutions.

Area of Application

All sectors of industry, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises

Additional Information

- Empfehlungen Gefährdungsermittlung der Unfallversicherungsträger (DGUV Information 213-701 ff., bisher: BGI 790-001 ff.). Hrsg.: Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung (DGUV), Berlin (ab 2014) www.dguv.de/ifa/egu
- Technical Rule for Hazardous Substances: Process- and substance-specific criteria (VSK) for identifying and assessing inhalation exposure (TRGS 420, 01.2006). Last amended: GMBI. (2010) No. 12, pp. 253-254

Expert Assistance

IFA, Division 3: Hazardous substances: handling – protective measures

Literature Requests

IFA, Central Division