

Skin Health Surveillance & Education

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Health Surveillance and Education Case Study

- Regulatory requirements for health surveillance
- Background to the organisation
- Available resources
- Discussion
- Our recommendations

COSHH Regulations 11 states:

(2) Health surveillance shall be treated as appropriate where –

(b) The exposure of the employee to a substance hazardous to health is such that –

(i) An identifiable disease or adverse health effect may be related to the exposure;

(ii) There is reasonable likelihood that the disease or effect may occur under the particular conditions of his work; and

(iii) There are valid techniques for detecting indications of the disease or effect, and the technique of investigation is of low risk to the employee.

Examples where health surveillance is appropriate under the criteria in regulation 11(2)(b) are stated in the ACoP as:

where there have been previous cases of work-related ill health in the workforce/place;

where there is reliance on PPE, eg gloves or respirators, as an exposure control measure; eg printers wearing gloves to protect against solvents used during press cleaning, or paint sprayers using two-pack paints wearing respirators to prevent asthma. Even with the closest supervision there is no guarantee that PPE will be effective at all times;

where there is evidence of ill health in jobs within the industry; eg frequent or prolonged contact with water (termed 'wet working') causing dermatitis in hairdressers and health care workers, or breathing in mists from chrome plating baths causing chrome ulcers in platers.

Company Background

- Engineering company making children's ride on toys
- Company grew over a number of years sporadically in variety of different buildings
- Bought out by another larger group some years ago
- Geographically far away from head office
- Have always done things their own way
- Not everyone is 100% behind need for change

Company Background

- There have been issues with skin exposure and also skin problems in the past
- Health and safety personnel based at head office
- No skin health surveillance system in place
- No recent training on skin exposure, skin care or PPE use
- Control measures under review
- Skin care regime under review

Company Background: Exposure



- Styrene
- Isocyanate based paints
- Physical abrasion
- Solvents
- Welding
- Woodwork
- Sanding
- Maintenance
- Refurbishment

Company Background: Exposure



Company Background: Exposure



Resources

- Health and Safety Manager based at Head Office
- Health and Safety Representatives
- Occupational Hygiene and Occupational Health services used when required
- Skin Condition Measurement Equipment (hydration)
- Identification of Responsible People
- Budget agreed but justification required before spending



Considerations for change

- Education and training
- Implementation of skin health surveillance
- Other health monitoring
- Long term goals



Considerations for Education & Training

- Raising awareness
- Highlighting regulatory compliance
- Interactive
- Needs for management
- Needs for the workforce

Considerations: Skin Health Surveillance

- Questionnaires
- Visual & tactile skin assessment
- Skin condition measurement
- System
- Roles (who's going to do what)



Considerations: Other Health Surveillance

- **Biological monitoring**



Considerations: Long-Term Goals

- Resistance to change
- Start small with plan of where you need to get to



Your thoughts.....

Our Recommendations

- **Management Awareness sessions**
- **Skin awareness sessions for the workforce**
- **Skin health surveillance**
 - Initial/pre-employment questionnaire and skin health assessment
 - Ongoing skin checks by responsible people
 - Skin condition monitoring at regular intervals
- **Biological monitoring**
- **Changes to work practices**



**Thank you for your
attention!**

Questions?