

# NEWSLETTER

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*This Newsletter is a periodic publication of DOHSBASE v.o.f. and appears at least at each update of the software DOHSBase Compare.*

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## UPDATE KICK-OFF VALUES

In 2005 DOHSBASE published the first version of the kick-off values. A kick-off value can be regarded as a limit value for substances without an Occupational Exposure Limits (OEL), but with one or more R-phrases related to health effects. Over the years, the appreciation for the kick-off values has increased. In the Netherlands, the Labour Inspectorate accepts kick-off values for compliance.

Since 2005 much has changed. First, the R-phrases are replaced by H-statements (part of the new CLP system). Furthermore, the DOHSBase Compare database with OELs has more than doubled. Additionally there is an international tendency to set OELs at lower levels. Finally, the "Control Banding" schemes we used in 2005 are also modified (H-statements instead of R-phrases) and improved.

This motivated us to re-establish the kick-off values. The first results of this update of the kick-off values have been published as a draft on our website ([www.dohsbase.nl/en/content-2-2-2/draft-kick-off-values-2013/](http://www.dohsbase.nl/en/content-2-2-2/draft-kick-off-values-2013/)). It shows the proposed new kick-off values based on COSHH Essentials with H-statements hazard grouping. In the next months we will add the calculations with other schemes. The backgrounds and the method will also be published on the website.

We would like to make use of the knowledge of everyone to improve the updated kick-off values 2014. We invite you therefore to provide comment on the draft kick-off values 2014. On the website is shown how you can do this (see the link in the previous paragraph). We will use these comments to finalise the updated kick-off values in April or May 2014.

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## Advisory reports of DECOS

In the past years we have been preparing to make the advisory reports of the Dutch Export Committee on Substances (DECOS) and its predecessor Working Group of Experts (WGD; until 1998) digitally available. With this update (2014-01) this is realised. You can find these reports in the field 'Basis' in the tab "Limit Values". The full report is available in searchable PDF-format by clicking the button with 3 dots after the name (see picture). In the International versions only the reports in English are presented. In the NL-versions also the reports in Dutch are presented.

Bron		
Wettelijk:	Arbo. reg. 4.19 B@XIIA; SIC 2006.252	28-12-2006
Referentie		
Onderbouwing:	WGD 1992 RA 07 WGD 1979 RA 02	01-07-1979
Kritisch effect		

## Present at conferences NVvA and BOHS

In April 2014 we will be present with our booth at two conferences. Firstly, we will be at the conference of the Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society (NVvA, April 2 +3, [www.arbeidshygiene.nl](http://www.arbeidshygiene.nl)). Secondly we will also be at OH2014, the conference of the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS, April 8-10, [www.bohs.org](http://www.bohs.org)). At both conferences, we will also make a substantive contribution by presenting the update of the kick-off values.

We hope to meet you upon either (or both) activities!



## FORMER DUTCH MAC-VALUES

Many Dutch occupational health professionals use anno 2014, in the absence of a legal OEL, the old Dutch MAC list of OELs (in use until 2006). So far the Dutch Labour Inspectorate has tolerated this. In DOHSBase Compare we presented in the NL-versions these former Dutch MAC-values, next to the alternatives from other organisations. In the international versions the former Dutch MAC-values were not presented

From this update (2014-01) on the former MAC-values have been removed from NL-Standard and NL-Xtend if there is a health-based OEL from another source, according to our hierarchy of OELs.

For a small number of former Dutch MAC-values no (health-based) OEL is available as an alternative. In this case, the former Dutch MAC-values are provisionally maintained in the NL-versions. However, if there is a kick-off value or a DNEL for this substance, we advise the user of a NL-version to use one of these values instead of a former Dutch MAC-value.

## E-ZINE

For some time we have besides this paper Newsletter, an electronic newsletter, the DOHSBase e-Zine. The e-Zine appears more often than the paper version. You can sign up (for free) on our website ([www.dohsbase.nl/en/news/newsletters/subscribe-e-zine/](http://www.dohsbase.nl/en/news/newsletters/subscribe-e-zine/)). There is also the possibility to register for the e-Zine when using DOHSBase Compare. There is a 'pop up' asking you to register when you first start the program after the installation of the update. A new option has been added to the Menu-option 'Help' in the program: (un)subscribe e-Zine.

## DATA LICENSING

For some time DOHSBase offers besides the DOHSBase Compare software, also the possibility to transfer data from our database to existing HSE systems of companies, or for use in the exposure estimate software 'Stoffenmanager' ([www.stoffenmanager.nl](http://www.stoffenmanager.nl)) or to other exposure assessment models. Which data you want to receive you determine yourself, also whether regular updating (to stay up to date) is required. We developed a standard, which can be uploaded to (the Premium account of) Stoffenmanager. In this case, the following information is provided (at the level of components): CAS number, product name, physical state, vapour pressure (in Pa), limit value TWA 8 hours (+ source), STEL (+ source). For the values we use the hierarchy for presenting OELs of the NL-Xtend version.

The **advantages** of this type of data-licensing: there is no time lost by searching the above information and by typing-in into Stoffenmanager for each component; there are no more errors made by retyping. If you choose to subscribe to updates, you are always up-to-date. More information about the delivery of data-licensing (e.g. for Stoffenmanager) can be found on our website [www.dohsbase.nl/en/products/data-licensing/](http://www.dohsbase.nl/en/products/data-licensing/), or contact us at [data@dohsbase.nl](mailto:data@dohsbase.nl).

Until further notice, you can test this service for **free**, the above data for a maximum of 10 CAS-numbers. Send a list of 10 CAS-numbers to [data@dohsbase.nl](mailto:data@dohsbase.nl), and we will provide the data.

On our website we have more information: [www.dohsbase.nl/en/products/data-licensing/](http://www.dohsbase.nl/en/products/data-licensing/).

## USE DOHSBASE COMPARE FOR EXPOSURE ESTIMATION

Did you know that you could use DOHSBase Compare for exposure assessment? DOHSBase Compare is a valuable tool in determining the priorities or of lead substances. The Compare mode of DOHSBase Compare is very well suited for this purpose. The Compare mode easily ranks substances on the RAS-score we developed. In the RAS-score two aspects are combined: the possibility of exceeding the OEL (TIX) and the classification in hazard classes (TOX). The result allows you to make substantiated choices about priorities or to determine the lead substance.

The selection of substances to be used in Compare mode can be done by selected each individual substance (name, CAS number) or importing a file with CAS-numbers. This last option allows you to import 30 substances at a time and calculate the ranking on basis of the RAS-score by the actual 'pressing a button'.

## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

In 2013 we have introduced two international versions: the English and French version (UK and FR-Xtend). This expansion will be continued in the coming year: we are working together with the Spanish Association for occupational hygiene (AEHI, Asociación Española de Higiene Industrial, [www.aehi.es](http://www.aehi.es)) to develop a Spanish version. The Spanish version (ES-Xtend) will be officially launched in the course of 2014.

### *Franchises*

We have decided to work with a franchise-system for the international versions. The franchisee will be responsible for marketing and sales updating national/local OELs and measurement methods, while DOHSBase concentrates on developing and maintaining the software. If you are interested in a franchise for an international version of DOHSBase or know someone who is, but does not read this newsletter, please contact us at [admin@dohsbase.nl](mailto:admin@dohsbase.nl).

## GROWING PAINS

In recent years we have grown significantly with DOHSBase. Our approach and efforts (international versions, kick-off values, Compare) are well valued by our costumers and other health professionals.

The downside is that the workload on us gets quite large. Therefore we are looking for freelancers who want to participate in the maintenance and expansion of DOHSBase Compare. We believe that among occupational hygienists there is extensive knowledge in the field of OELs and Measurement methods. In our contacts we may sometimes find that occupational hygienists develop and maintain databases with OELs and measurement methods. Sometimes only for a single customer.

If you want to share your knowledge in a wider context and also like to contribute to increasing the quality and / or sale of the software package, or other activities of DOHSBase, please contact us at: [dohsbase@dohsbase.nl](mailto:dohsbase@dohsbase.nl). Do not expect a large fee, this also applies to us.



**DOHSBASE**  
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