

Update 2018-02

This Newsletter appears with the distribution of update 2018-02. With this update you are completely up-to-date for occupational exposure limit values (OELVs) and measurement methods of (especially) hazardous substances. The NL-Xtend version now includes:

- 280.000 unique substances;
- 8.950 substances with harmonized CLP classifications (including group classifications for metal compounds and substances classified as 'non-hazardous');
- 750 substances with an assessment by the Health Council and IARC regarding carcinogenicity;
- 1.575 substances with Self Classification carried out by DOHSBase in the absence of a harmonized CLP classification;
- 300 substances with a GHS classification from Australia (without CLP classification);
- 10.650 OELVs from Dutch and foreign sources;
- 8.570 DNEL-values;
- 3.670 kick-off values (for substances without an OELV or a DNEL);
- Measurement methods: 2.800 analytical requirements from Dutch and foreign sources. In this way the exposure in mainly the workplace atmosphere (in addition to a few Biological Monitoring methods) of about 5.800 (out of 280.000) substances and some 4.700 (out of 75.000) OELVs can be assessed according to (the new) EN-689. Currently more than 30 of the Dutch analytical requirements have a URL in the field Source of the Measurement Method, which directly links to the relevant regulation on the website of <https://www.nen.nl>. This means that the exposure for the Dutch situation can be correctly assessed for a large number of OELVs such as lead and chromium VI compounds.

In this update 2018-02 we have updated the limit values lists of various sources. In particular, the amendments to the legal German list Arbeitsplatzgrenzwerte (Ausschuss für Gefahrstoffe (AGS), Technische Regeln für Gefahrstoffe 900, June 7, 2018) and the US TLV list of the ACGIH (2018 TLVs and BEIs, March 2018) are in this update. We have also made some improvements to the most recent German OELV list of DFG (List of MAK and BAT Values 2017, Permanent Senate Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area, Report 53, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, July 1, 2017).

Finally, the Dutch SZW list of CMR substances of July 2, 2018 (Dutch Government Gazette no. 35478) has been included in this update.

New version standard EN 689, measurement strategy

The new version of the standard EN 689 was published May 2018 (EN 689: 2018 en Occupational Exposure - Measurement of the inhalation exposure to chemical substances - Strategy to comply with occupational exposure limit values). A working group of international experts has been working for years on the new standard to describe the measurement strategy for exposure measurements. DOHSBASE team member Theo Scheffers was involved to represent the Dutch Association for Occupational Hygiene (NVvA) in this workgroup, with members from several European countries. The new standard EN 689 (in the Netherlands NEN-EN 689) can be obtained (against payment) from the Netherlands Standardization Institute (www.nen.nl) and the standardization organisation in your country.

Workshop Hierarchy OELVs at NVvA conference

During the last conference of the Dutch Association for Occupational Hygiene (NVvA), a workshop was held on April 12, 2018 on the desirability and possibilities to align the hierarchy of occupational exposure limit values. Introductions were given by Joost van Rooij (chairman NVvA, interest for the association), Theo Scheffers (DOHSBase, introduction & history) and Koen Verbist (Cosanta, experience from limit values training). The workshop was a great success with 60 participants, a fascinating discussion and the response to several theses. The necessity and urgency for developing a hierarchy that does justice to national and international complexity was underlined. In addition to NVvA, other stakeholders will also actively contribute to this.

In DOHSBase Compare we do not display all known limit values of a substance, but we select the most relevant limit value. For this we use the decision-making scheme for OELV's of the Dutch SER (The Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands) from 2007 as a base. We have made some additions to this decision-making scheme (such as always displaying the legal OELVs in the country version [so the legal French OELVs VLEPs are always shown in the FR-Xtend version] and the inclusion of DNELs in the hierarchy of limit values, as shown below). Internationally, experts seem to tend to follow the model below more and more. This model is also used in DOHSBase Compare.

