

New and improved in update 2019-01

At the end of January, 2019 the most recent update of DOHSBase Compare (update 2019-01) was made available as a download for our customers. We have again implemented a large number of improvements and updates in this update.

- The Dutch "SZW list of CMR substances" from 2 January 2019 has been incorporated in this update.
- In the Dutch "SZW list of CMR substances" petroleum products are classified as carcinogenic and / or mutagenic are referenced as groups with specific first 3 digits of the EC number and not with CAS numbers. In total there are about 9000 substances that fall into these groups of EC numbers. Not all substances in these groups are petroleum products and carcinogenic. With a number of smart algorithms and the carcinogenicity classifications of the Dutch Health Council, IARC, ACGIH and Concawe (Inventory of Petroleum Substances), we have been able to identify and distinguish the petroleum products in these groups from the certain non-petroleum products. This has led to a reduction in the number of "petroleum-like" substances that are certainly or potentially subject to the additional Dutch and EU registration obligation. This involves 1471 substances. Certainty about the carcinogenic or mutagenic classification can be found via the 'ECHA' button in the Properties tab.
- The classification of carcinogenicity of the EU, IARC, Dutch Health Council, IARC and Concawe have been updated and included in this update.
- We have performed a check on the physical state of substances. Further on in this eZine this is explained in more detail.
- The changes and new limit values from the "List of MAK and BAT Values 2018" of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) are included in this update.
- On December 1, 2018, the 10th amendment to the CLP Regulation came into effect. In this change, the harmonized classification and labeling of a large number of substances has been adjusted or substances have received a new classification. These changes were processed and are visible in update 19-01.
- The links to the database of occupational limit values on the website of the Dutch Social and Economic Council (SER, www.ser.nl) have now become "deep links", if the substance has a CAS number.

Online version of DOHSBase Compare: Beta testers requested

In 1992 the first version of DOHSBase was released on floppy discs. The program has meanwhile been expanded and improved greatly. The distribution of updates is now done via a download (and for some users with a DVD). In 2019 we will take the next step in the development. DOHSBase Compare will be available as an online application via a website and on mobile devices (telephone, tablet). Initially only the online application contains only the 'Search and Find' mode. The 'Compare' mode will be developed later. This means that you always have DOHSBase at your disposal on any platform.

We are currently working on a beta version of the online application, which we will present at the Conference of Dutch Occupational Hygiene Society NVvA (10 and 11 April 2019).

To make "DOHSBase Online" (working title) as good as possible, we are looking for beta testers. So, if you are interested to be one of the first to get to know "DOHSBase Online" and to improve it by critically examining the available information (how does it look?; do I get to see what I want to see?; what could be better?), please register by sending an e-mail to dohsbase@dohsbase.nl. We will contact you as soon as we are ready for the test phase. Of course, there are no costs associated with working with the beta version.

Physical state

To assess the exposure with models, but also with measurements, it is important to know in which physical state (gas, vapor, aerosol or combinations) a substance occurs in the workplace atmosphere. DOHSBase collects the best usable public information about the physical properties via a hierarchy (as usual: see limit values, classifications and measurement methods) and transfers the physical state from reliable public sources (which are represented in DOHSBase Compare via a pop-up). The given physical state is checked with an algorithm of the boiling point (MP), melting point (BP) and vapor pressure (VP). In the absence of the physical state in the sources, it is determined via an algorithm with the available values of the MP, BP and VP. The scheme of this algorithm can also be found in the Help of DOHSBase Compare (if the cursor is placed in the field with the value of the physical state [Properties tab] then click on the F1 key and the relevant Help page will appear).

In recent years, we have established 53025 substances or mixtures with a CAS number or an EC number in this way, the physical state and the appearance in the workplace atmosphere.

<i>Physical State</i>	<i>Exposure as:</i>	<i>Number of substances</i>
Gas & Gas/Liquid	Vapor (ppm)	394
Liquid	Vapor (ppm)	19840
Solid & Liquid with very low vapor pressure	Aerosol (mg/m ³)	21027
Solid	Fibres	7
Solid/Liquid & Solids with a relevant vapor pressure	Aerosol & vapor (mg/m ³ & ppm)	11757

The system is certainly not yet complete, but we already cover almost 20% of the substances that may occur in the workplace. We are reasonably convinced that these are the most common substances. We think this a major step related to better assess the exposure to substances in the workplace.

For questions or suggestions about determining the physical state of substances: contact us via the address: progont@dohsbase.nl.

Disclaimer: DOHSBase seeks to differentiate itself from other databases by a qualitative assessment of relevant occupational health data. We also make choices about the most reliable data for assessing exposure in the workplace via all routes. This saves the user time and leads to greater uniformity in the assessment. Nevertheless, as a user you remain responsible for the final assessment of the reliability for your specific situation.

Website Dutch SER renewed

The Dutch Social and Economic Council (SER) has for a long time kept a database of the public OELs for substances in different countries (in Dutch only). Recently the website of the SER (www.ser.nl) has been renewed. The database of occupational limit values with data of approx. 2000 substances has also been renewed (www.ser.nl/en/OEL-Database). The database is still "work in progress". The SER indicates that the database does not yet work as it should.

Search can still be done by name and CAS number. An overview is then given of the substances that meet the criteria. No limit values are shown, only the (English) name, synonyms, CAS number and EC number. To see the OELs, click on the substance name. Then the public limit values for that substance become visible.

Dutch website 'safe working with dangerous goods' removed

In 2007, when the public/private occupational limit value system in The Netherlands came into force, the Dutch national MAC list was canceled. To support the business community, a website was drawn up on behalf of the SER (<http://www.veiligwerkenmetchemischestoffen.nl/>) containing a hierarchy for choosing the 'right' limit value and an overview of safe practices. After more than 10 years this website has been removed. So, if you look for the website www.veiligwerkenmetchemischestoffen.nl, you will receive an error message ("Cannot reach this page").

DOHSBase Compare also uses a hierarchy for displaying occupational limit values. This is based on the hierarchy of this removed website and has been updated over the years. For current occupational limit values you can rely on DOHSBase Compare. The hierarchy of limit values can also be found via the web link www.tsac.nl/fotos/OELV_Hierarchy.pdf.