



Occupational Emerging Risks

Employers and employees in Manufacturing need your help

NORA

The National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) is a partnership program to stimulate innovative research and improve workplace practices. Unveiled in 1996, NORA has become a framework for guiding Occupational Safety and Health research in the nation. Diverse parties collaborate to identify the most critical issues in the workplace. Partners then work together to develop goals, objectives, and an implementation plan for addressing these issues.

Manufacturing

The Manufacturing Sector consists of industries that have been assigned a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) number between 31 and 33 (www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/naicod02.htm#N31), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. This sector employs one of the largest workforces and includes a diverse group of manufacturing industries such as Beverage and Tobacco, Food, Wood Products, Primary Metals, Fabricated Metal Products, Transportation Equipment, Furniture, and Chemical Manufacturers.

Emerging Risks in the Manufacturing Sector

An estimated 15.9 million people worked in the Manufacturing Sector in 2008, which accounted for approximately 10.9% of the employed U.S. workforce.¹ In 2008, about one in seven recordable workplace injuries and illnesses and one in thirteen workplace fatalities occurred in Manufacturing.^{2,3}

An emerging risk is a recently discovered actual or potential hazard to people and property. The hazard is typically recognized by empirical means including engineering analyses, accident or injury investigations, toxicological studies, and epidemiological studies. Newly synthesized materials for which empirical studies are lacking may be identified as emerging issues because of the nature and physical characteristics of the materials. Occupational exposures to newly synthesized materials, as an example, is an emerging risk.



Strategic Goal on Emerging Risks to Occupational Safety and Health

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council has developed goals to enhance the state of knowledge related to emerging risks to occupational safety and health. These goals can be found on the NORA Web site (www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora) under the Strategic Goal 9 of the National Manufacturing Agenda. Public comments on this document are accepted at any time.

How You Can Help

Apply research findings:

- Publicize proven effective interventions against emerging risks
- Develop business cases for adopting interventions
- Develop and distribute worker and employer education materials specific to emerging risks
- Develop methods to communicate best practices and lessons learned to employers and workers.

Share data:

- Use existing databases to collect and analyze data to identify, investigate and track emerging risks—agents, processes, and new technologies associated with health risks and potential hazards
- Develop surveillance data on emerging risks in manufacturing

Partner with researchers:

- Identify and inventory sources of emerging risks
- Develop cost effective interventions and engineering controls
- Conduct research to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions
- Monitor new agents, processes and technologies to identify potential hazards and to prioritize issues to be investigated

The NORA Manufacturing Sector Council includes individuals from industry, academia, labor, and government. The Council meets face-to-face twice a year. Additional communication occurs through email, conference calls, and web-based meetings. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) facilitates the work of the Council. The Council's Emerging Risks workgroup relies on Corresponding Members for additional expert input and feedback on the goals. Members and Corresponding Members primarily meet via conference calls and web-based meetings.

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For more information about NORA or the NORA Manufacturing Sector, please visit:

NORA Website: www.cdc.gov/niosh/nora

NIOSH Manufacturing Program Portfolio:
www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/manuf/

References

Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates, latest available (accessed April 25, 2010)

- (1) www.bls.gov/cps/cpsa2008.pdf - See Table 18
- (2) www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/cftb0232.pdf
- (3) www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/osh/os/ostb2073.pdf