

What are our priorities?

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Authoritative Recommendations Program supports the scientific assessment, development, dissemination, and diffusion of NIOSH authoritative recommendations for assuring safe and healthy working conditions for all workers, particularly those who work with chemicals. Examples of authoritative recommendations include Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs), Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) values, Skin Notation (SK) Profiles, engineering controls, safe work practices, personal protective equipment, exposure monitoring, and medical monitoring, among others. The Program seeks to reduce and prevent occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities by developing and evaluating authoritative recommendations.

What do we do?

- Identify areas where authoritative recommendations are needed based on:
 - Requests from government agencies including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Mining Safety and Health Administration (MSHA)
 - Requests from labor and industry
 - The goals of NIOSH research programs.
- Apply policies for classifying chemical hazards based on health effects such as carcinogenicity and dermal effects.
- Conduct research, risk assessment, and document development activities leading to dissemination of RELs or risk management levels (RMLs, for chemical carcinogens) and related guidance for chemical hazards in the workplace.
- Publish recommendations in NIOSH documents including Criteria Documents; Current Intelligence Bulletins; and Hazard Alerts.
- Partner with the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), OSHA, and others to develop and promote recommendations for performing [occupational exposure banding](#) for thousands of chemicals lacking occupational exposure limits (OELs).

What have we accomplished?

- Published the [NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy](#), which describes how NIOSH classifies chemicals as carcinogens (cancer-causing), identifies control levels, and addresses how to monitor exposures to reflect advances in science.
- Published the [State of the Science of Occupational Exposure Limit Methods and Guidance](#) in a Special Issue of the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene* to serve as a framework to enhance the methodology and effectiveness of OELs, which have been a cornerstone of industrial hygiene practice dating back to the 1880s. Yet OELs have not—until recently—evolved enough to reflect advances in related sciences of toxicology, risk assessment, and exposure assessment.
- Published [SK Profile documents](#) and [IDLH values](#) for specific chemical hazards in the workplace.

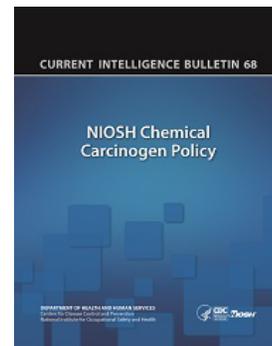
What's next?

- Complete and disseminate *Current Intelligence Bulletin on the occupational exposure banding strategy and guidance* and a companion e-Tool.
- Develop a comprehensive guidance document describing *NIOSH Practices in Occupational Risk Assessment* for peer, stakeholder, and public review.
- Develop assessments and guidance for occupational exposures to 1-bromopropane, toluene diisocyanates, as well as SK Profiles and IDLH values for additional chemicals.
- Identify metrics and a strategy to track the reach and impact of NIOSH authoritative recommendations by government agencies, industry, organized labor, and other stakeholder groups.

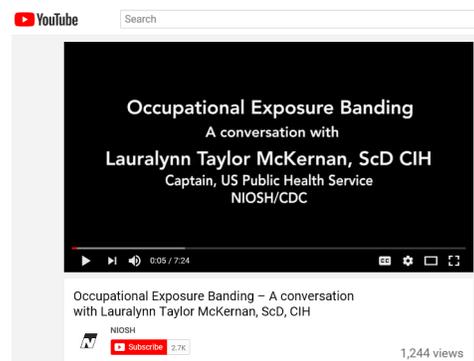
At-A-Glance

The NIOSH Authoritative Recommendations Program seeks to maximize the impact and reach of science and policy across the spectrum of occupational hazards affecting workers in all industries.

Publication Spotlight: [NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy](#)



YouTube Video on [NIOSH Occupational Exposure Banding Web Topic Page](#)



Publications of Authoritative Recommendations



To learn more, visit
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/recdev.html>

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