

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 NIOSH authoritative recommendations include Recommended Exposure Limits (RELs), Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) values, Skin Notation (SK) assignments, and policy documents with NIOSH recommendations for 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 and guidance.

What do we do?

- Prioritize the development of authoritative recommendations 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.
- Develop **risk assessment** methodologies to ensure consistent, transparent, and rigorous processes are available for scientists, and the methodologies represent the state-of-the-sciences of toxicology, epidemiology, exposure assessment, and related disciplines.
- 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.
- Assess **hazardous drugs** in healthcare settings and promote best practices for risk management to protect exposed workers.

What have we accomplished?

- Sponsored a Mini-Symposium on Cumulative Risk Assessment (CRA) with experts from government, academia, and consulting to identify steps for its implementation in the workplace. CRA is the process of identifying and evaluating the combined effects of multiple exposures.
- Published peer-reviewed papers on risk assessment methodologies for chemical, physical, and biological hazards in the workplace.
- Published new **Skin Notation Profiles** for Atrazine, Catechol, Chlorinated camphene, Pentachlorophenol (PCP), and Sodium fluoroacetate, assessing these chemicals in the workplace and the dermal hazards they pose to workers in order to inform better risk management decisions.
- Published a comprehensive Technical Report about **occupational exposure banding** as well as a companion **electronic Tool (e-Tool)**. The report and e-Tool provide a consistent and documented process with a decision logic to characterize chemical hazards so that timely, well-informed risk management decisions can be made for chemical substances that lack occupational exposure limits.

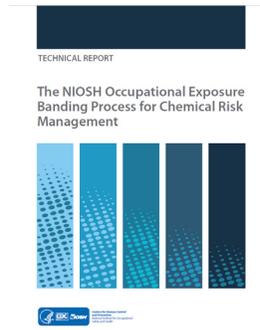
What's next?

- Develop a suite of tools, practices, and products for risk assessment and management of hazardous **chemicals in the workplace**. This effort includes exploration of cumulative risk assessment methodology, exposure assessment and control methods, and consideration of prevention through design approaches.
- Focus on the **dermal route of exposure** to chemicals in the workplace and how this might be addressed through assessment and control recommendations such as skin notation profiles and occupational exposure banding.
- Publish a guidance document on **NIOSH Practices in Occupational Risk Assessment**.
- Partner with OSHA, the Environmental Protection Agency, other Federal agencies, labor, and industry to identify and address critical needs and gaps in workplace recommendations.

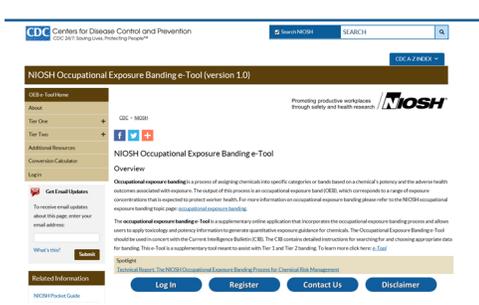
At-A-Glance

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 through the development and dissemination of evidence-based recommendations.

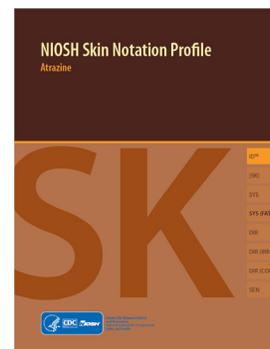
Occupational Exposure Banding Technical Report



Occupational Exposure Banding e-Tool



Skin Notation Profile Documents



To learn more, visit
www.cdc.gov/niosh/programs/recdev.html

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