

# ILO Chemical Control Toolkit

Pavan Baichoo

InFocus Programme on safety  
and health at work and the  
environment  
(SafeWork)

# Outline

- Background
- Overview of toolkit
- Latest developments
- Toolkit problems
- Future work



# Background

- Scheme for Workplace Chemicals Control Kit designed for SMEs in developing countries
- Work undertaken by experts from ILO, IOHA, USA, South Africa, HSE
- Aim is to provide simple and practical means to prevent/reduce risks of chemicals especially in places where access to specialist advice is difficult



# Toolkit operation

Five stages:

- Hazard classification
- Scale of use
- Ability to become airborne
- Finding the control approach
- Finding the task-specific control guidance sheet(s)

# Stage 1: Hazard classification

- Determination of hazards presented by the chemicals (based on the GHS)
- 5 hazard groups for inhalation, 1 for skin contact
- Simple 3-step reference table allows hazard group to be assigned to the chemical

# Stage 2: Scale of use

- Determines how much is used/handled

Quantity	Solid		Liquid	
	Weight	Typically received in	Volume	Typically received in
Small	Grams	Packets or bottles	Millilitres	Bottles
Medium	Kilograms	Kegs or drums	Litres	Drums
Large	Tonnes	Bulk	Cubic metres	Bulk

# Stage 3: Ability to become airborne

- Physical form of chemical affects how likely it is to get into the air
- Solids – 3 levels of dustiness (low-pellets, medium-crystalline, high-powder)
- Liquids – 3 levels of volatility (High-  $B_{pt} < 60^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Medium-  $60^{\circ}\text{C} < B_{pt} < 150^{\circ}\text{C}$ , Low-  $B_{pt} > 150^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



# Stage 4: Selection of control approach

- Stages 1-3 enable the choice of control approach to be made using table
- 4 control approaches possible: general ventilation, engineering controls, containment and Special

# Stage 5: Find the task-specific guidance sheet(s)

- General guidance sheet for each approach
- Task specific guidance sheets available

# Latest developments

- Draft Toolkit available online
- Toolkit methodology available in English, French, Bahasa Indonesian and Vietnamese
- 57 task specific control guidance sheets currently available



# Toolkit problems

- Task control sheets aimed at medium sized enterprises in developed countries – aim was SMEs in developing countries
- Need for peer-review by experts from both developing and developed countries
- Task control sheets are too general in nature – should be country specific



# Future work

- Encourage national implementation of the Toolkit with the development of country specific task control guidance sheets
- Focus on sectors which impact more workers
- Development, translation and peer review of control sheets adapted to technical economic means of a country – use expertise available in the country

# Where to get more information

- SafeWork Website  
([www.ilo.org/safework](http://www.ilo.org/safework))
- Pavan Baichoo, ILO ([baichoo@ilo.org](mailto:baichoo@ilo.org))
- Carolyn Vickers, WHO, PCS  
([vickersc@who.int](mailto:vickersc@who.int))



# Thank you

