

Occupational Health



Occupational health should be treated on par with worker safety. The only difference between a worker injured on the job and one who is impaired from an occupational disease is that one occurs very rapidly, while the other occurs over a period of time. Strong performance on occupational health is accomplished by anticipating, recognizing, evaluating and controlling occupational health hazards leading to illness.

Accounting for Occupational Health is the process of:

- Treating employee’s health on par with personal safety by;
 - Anticipating, recognizing, evaluating and controlling occupational health hazards leading to illness.
 - Applying appropriate new technologies, with an emphasis on exposure assessment and medical surveillance.

How it works

Companies should conduct periodic exposure assessment when employees face potential overexposure to hazards (noise, dust, welding fumes, radiation, chemicals, etc.), or when deemed appropriate by a professional industrial hygienist.

An exposure assessment program includes two factors:

- Compliance with regulatory requirements for exposure monitoring; and
- Determinations on the need for exposure controls and follow-up medical monitoring to guard against lasting effects from the exposure(s).

Exposure assessment should follow validated sampling methodologies and accepted industrial hygiene practices. New technology should be applied to serve as a mechanism to modify employee behavior relative to exposure to health hazards.

Flow of the Process

In establishing a program to anticipate, recognize, evaluate and control occupational health hazards leading to illness, an operation should;

- Conduct representative qualitative and quantitative risk (exposure) assessments to characterize occupational health hazards and associated risks.
- Determine the degree of control necessary to address occupational health hazards and apply "hierarchy of control" accordingly.
- Ensure exposure assessment results are communicated to affected employees in a timely and understandable way.
- For "over exposures," determine the need for temporary or permanent health monitoring and conduct monitoring using appropriate medical standards.
- Ensure accurate protection of employee medical confidentiality for non-occupational information, e.g., HIPPA.
- Provide a mechanism to assess employee general health risks that are relevant to the occupational setting, e.g., blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, flexibility, strength, etc.
- Provide wellness education for employees including mechanisms that can be pursued to improve general health risk factors both on and off the job.
- Document occupational health management data for compliance, analysis and verification purposes and for future reference.

Workbook Materials For Module 13

Occupational health hazards and risks should be considered when assessing the task fatality prevention/risk management of Module 4. For each task, health risk should be considered equally with the safety risk and controls determined and implemented to mitigate any health effects. Exposure assessments and medical surveillance should be considered as controls.

Occupational Health Risk Assessment

Departmental Responsibility:

Department: _____

Team Leader: _____

Members: _____

Occupational Health Hazards and Risk Assessment:

Hazards may include, but are not limited to: dust, welding fumes and other metallic particulates, noise, acid mists, organic vapors and solvents, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, diesel particulates, toxic gases, asbestos soluble oil, synthetic mineral fibers, microbiological agents in mold, heat stress, illumination, ergonomic stressors, etc.

Identify all occupational health hazards for the site and relate the exposure as it presents a risk to the task assessments in the Module 4 risk register. Assure controls are identified to eliminate or mitigate any immediate or long term effect.

MODULE


Health Hazard: _____
 Exposure Risk: _____
 Site Tasks Subject to Risk: _____
 Occupations Exposed to Risk: _____
 Is health hazard considered with the task risk management: Yes ____ No ____

For each task with a NO answer, return to the task safety risk register and add the health hazard. Proceed, determining the action items required eliminating or reducing to acceptable levels the health hazard exposure. In order to take advantage of developing technology, special consideration should be given to the audit frequency of the controls related to health hazards.

Exposure Levels, Assessment and Surveillance:

Ensure exposure assessment results are communicated to affected employees in a timely and understandable way. For “over exposures,” determine the need for temporary or permanent health monitoring and conduct monitoring using appropriate medical standards.

Health Hazard: _____
 Maximum Exposure Level:
 Regulatory: _____
 Controlling Agency: _____
 Statute or Policy: _____
 Corporate: _____
 Policy: _____

Measuring Frequency:
 Regulatory: _____
 Controlling Agency: _____
 Statute or Policy: _____
 Corporate: _____
 Policy: _____

MODULE



Measuring Methods:

Regulatory: _____
Controlling Agency: _____
Statute or Policy: _____
Corporate: _____
Policy: _____

Instrumentation Required:

Regulatory: _____
Controlling Agency: _____
Statute or Policy: _____
Corporate: _____
Policy: _____

Reporting Methods:

Regulatory: _____
Controlling Agency: _____
Statute or Policy: _____
Corporate: _____
Policy: _____

Over Exposure Considerations/Requirements:

Action Level: _____

Additional Controls Required:

By Regulation: _____
By Policy: _____

Additional Exposure Monitoring Required:

By Regulation: _____
Frequency: _____
By Policy: _____
Frequency: _____

MODULE



Medical Surveillance Required:

By Regulation: _____

Frequency: _____

By Policy: _____

Frequency: _____

Employee Health and Wellness Programs:

Provide a mechanism to assess employee general health risks that are relevant to the occupational setting, e.g., blood pressure, blood sugar, weight, flexibility, strength, etc. along with providing wellness education for employees including mechanisms that can be pursued to improve general health risk factors both on and off the job. Document occupational health management data for compliance, analysis and verification purposes and for future reference.

Employee Examinations: (Complete for each type)

Type: _____

(Ex. Physical, Wellness, Vitals)

Location: _____

(Consider health assessment programs at the work place)

Service Provider: _____

Frequency: _____

Health Risks Monitored: _____

Action plan for at risk findings: _____

Health Status Documentation:

Administrator: _____

Agency: _____

Contact No.: _____

MODULE


Health Enrichment and Education

Worksite Programs/Screenings:

Subject: _____

Location: _____

Frequency: _____

Administrator: _____

Worksite Audio/Visual Notices:

Subject: _____

Display Method: _____

(Poster, TV Monitor, etc.)

Location: _____

Corporate Sponsored Health Programs:

Program: _____

(Weightwatchers, Athletic Club Memberships, Medical Facilities)

Location: _____

Co-Pays: _____

Frequency: _____