

Measures to Prevent Health Disorders by Chemicals

Chemicals have significantly contributed to the development of industry and today's affluent life heavily depends on them. Chemicals are indispensable in our daily life. While they are useful, many of them are hazardous and toxic at the same time. Since inappropriate handling of chemicals has adverse effects on our health, their proper management is crucial. The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare examines chemical toxicity (carcinogen test by animal experiment), disseminates a system requiring indication of chemicals' toxicity (labeling, issue of Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)), promotes workers' voluntary management of chemicals at workplaces. All these measures are designed to promote measures to prevent workers' health disorders caused by chemicals.

Chemical substances at workplace (Approx. 60,000 items)

Substances subject to preparation and issue of MSDS: 640 items

Substances subject to special control: 109 items

Ordinance on Prevention of Hazards due to Specified Chemical Substances (53 items)

Chlorine, ethylene oxide, chromic acid, hydrocyanic acid, hydrogen fluoride, benzene, hydrargyrum, ammonia, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, hydrogen chloride, etc.

Ordinance on Prevention of Organic Solvent Poisoning (54 items)

Acetone, xylene, chloroform, carbon tetrachloride, trichloroethylene, toluene, n-hexane, methanol, gasoline, petroleum naphtha, etc.

Ordinance on Prevention of Lead Poisoning

Ordinance on Prevention of Tetraalkyl Lead Poisoning

Ordinance on Prevention of Asbestos

Substances requiring manufacturing permits (7 items)
Beryllium, etc.

Substances covered by the guideline for prevention of health disturbance (18 items)
vinyl acetate, biphenyl, etc.

The prevention-rule for asbestos problems (Measures to demolish buildings with asbestos, etc)

Substances subject to ban on manufacturing: 8 items
Benzidine, Asbestos, etc.