

Background and aims of the ETEAM Project

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Generic exposure tools are currently widely used for chemical safety assessments under REACH. Several 1st tier exposure models such as ECETOC TRA, MEASE, EMKG-EXPO-TOOL, STOFFENMANAGER and RISKOFDERM are recommended by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) for estimating occupational exposure. Although the tier 1 models claim to have a broad range of applicability, none of these models has been extensively validated during its development. The German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, (BAuA) has therefore initiated and sponsored a comprehensive Evaluation of the Tier 1 Exposure Assessment Models (ETEAM). Carried out by the Institute of Occupational Medicine (IOM Edinburgh) and the Fraunhofer Institute for Toxicology (ITEM Hannover) the ETEAM project was intended to compare and contrast the different REACH Tier 1 exposure assessment models in terms of their conceptual and external validity, scope of application, functionality and user-friendliness. An international Advisory Board has provided objective scientific advice to the project and made available workplace exposure data for use in the external validation process. The results of this project will assist both industry and registrants to choose the most appropriate model for a given exposure situation. In addition, its results will assist authorities to assess whether or not an exposure scenario presented by a registrant is safe and to estimate how conservative the exposure estimates are.