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International BAuA Symposium

WHO fibres from nanomaterials and other advanced materials: Do we have to tackle a new asbestos problem in OSH?

April 20th, 2016
10:00 – 16:00

Lecture Hall, BAuA Dortmund/Germany

Symposium

Since 2005, the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA) has a focus on safety research and governance of nanomaterials at the workplace. BAuA unites expertise on measurement and characterisation of particles, toxicology, risk assessment, and control strategies. BAuA is also engaged in the regulation and governance of nanomaterials through policy advice and participation in various governmental working groups and committees on national and international level.

BAuA invites to an international symposium on asbestos-like fibres from nanomaterials and other advanced materials. The goal is to initiate a trans-disciplinary debate among representatives from academia, regulatory agencies, industry, and other interested parties in the governance landscape on advanced materials. It is also addressed to the members of the WHO Guideline Development Group 'WHO Guidelines on Nanomaterials and Workers' Health', who will hold a face-to-face meeting on April 18 to 19 at BAuA in Dortmund.

Scientific programme

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Registration

Please register until April 15th, 2016, via the online form at www.baua.de/en/Topics-from-A-to-Z/Hazardous-Substances/Nanotechnology/Symposium.html

or E-mail to the registration office.

Participation is free of charge.
Lunch has to be paid on site.

Registration office:

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Venue

Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA)
Lecture Hall, Main Building/Haus 1
Friedrich-Henkel-Weg 1
44149 Dortmund

For maps and directions see
www.baua.de

Objective

Nanotechnology has essentially broadened the spectrum of targeted material design. It enables the development of advanced materials, such as carbon nano tubes, that can be engineered to almost any fibre dimension and shape. Results from a decade of research on the toxicological effects of nanomaterials so far indicate no 'nanospecific' toxicity, i.e. novel mechanisms of toxicity as result of their size. But long-known substance and particle related health effects may also appear in the new clothes of advanced materials! In fact, evidence suggests that asbestos-like fibres are

a major issue for occupational safety and health. More than ten years after the European ban of asbestos, lessons from the past may help to depict recommendations and guidance on sustainable approaches to avoid a new asbestos problem at the workplace. Latest results from nanosafety research offer assumptions for refinement of the fibre principle and open the gates for a safe material design. There is need for flexible and adaptable governance approaches that can keep pace with technological development in the field of material research.

Programme

Chair: Rolf Packroff, Scientific Director of Department 'Hazardous Chemicals and Biological Agents', BAuA

10:00 Welcome

Rüdiger Pipke, Head of Department 'Hazardous Chemicals and Biological Agents', BAuA

10:15 Keynote: The Tortoise and the Hare: Governance challenges under conditions of scientific uncertainty

Elen Stokes, Law School, Cardiff University

11:00 Learning from the past: WHO Asbestos profile for Germany

Andreas Lüdeke, Hazardous Chemicals Management, BAuA

11:45 Hazards and risks from WHO fibres at the workplace

Thomas Gebel, Toxicology, BAuA

12:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 WHO fibre release, workplace exposure measurement and assessment

Volker Bachmann, Particulate Hazardous Substances, Advanced Materials, BAuA

14:15 Fibrous nano and advanced materials

Asmus Meyer-Plath, Particulate Hazardous Substances, Advanced Materials, BAuA

15:00 Communication and Co-operation: Trans-disciplinary approaches for a safe material design

Aline Reichow, Scientific Management of Department 'Hazardous Chemicals and Biological Agents', BAuA

15:45 Concluding remarks

Rolf Packroff

16:00 END

The working language is English.