

Carcinogens in the Workplace

Evaluation Sheet

Introduction: the facts about carcinogens

1. *How many workers around the world die each year because of the conditions in which they work?*

- 20,000
- 200,000
- 2,000,000
- 20,000,000

2. *Complete the following statement on occupational exposure to carcinogens for Europe with the correct figures.*

For Europe, the total number of people suffering from cancer as a result of exposure to carcinogens at work is estimated at cases per year, with almost deaths per year.

3. *Which of the following statements about occupational exposure to carcinogens and the associated risks is correct?*

- In the context of occupational exposure, the risk of developing cancer is much lower than in everyday life. Indeed, many workers are unintentionally exposed to high levels of carcinogens on a daily basis, and this exposure lasts for many years.
- In the context of occupational exposure, the risk of developing cancer is much higher than in everyday life. Indeed, many workers are unintentionally exposed to high levels of carcinogens on a daily basis, and this exposure lasts for many years.
- In the context of occupational exposure, the risk of developing cancer is much higher than in everyday life. Indeed, many workers are unintentionally exposed to low levels of carcinogens on a daily basis, and this exposure lasts for many years.
- In the context of occupational exposure, the risk of developing cancer is much higher than in everyday life. Indeed, many workers are unintentionally exposed to high levels of carcinogens on a daily basis, and this exposure does not last long.

4. *What are the most common exposure ways to carcinogens? Several answers are possible.*

- Inhalation
- Skin contact
- Ingestion (eating or drinking)
- Development within the body itself

The employer's responsibility

1. *Which statement is correct?*

- Protecting the well-being (and therefore health) of the worker is the responsibility of the workers themselves.
- Protecting the well-being (and therefore health) of the worker is the responsibility of the employer.

2. *Against which elements that could harm the well-being is the employer supposed to protect the worker? Several answers are possible.*

- Dangerous chemical substances
- Dangerous biological agents
- Dangerous radiation
- Ergonomic constraints
- Psychosocial risks
- General safety (falls, stumbles, electrocution, etc.)

3. *Which combination and order of the 5 risk analysis phases below are correct?*

- 1) Identify dangers and persons at risk, 2) Assess and prioritise risks, 3) Decide on preventive measures, 4) Check whether there is enough budget and 5) Monitoring and review
- 1) Identify dangers and persons at risk, 2) Assess and prioritise risks, 3) Decide on preventive measures, 4) Take action and 5) Monitoring and review
- 1) Decide on preventive measures, 2) Assess and prioritise risks, 3) Identify dangers and persons at risk, 4) Take action and 5) Monitoring and review
- 1) Assess and prioritise risks, 2) Identify dangers and persons at risk, 3) Decide on preventive measures, 4) Take action and 5) Monitoring and review

Exposure to carcinogenic substances: STOP principle

1. *Fill in the missing words to correctly complete the statement below about the STOP principle:*

The STOP principle follows a of prevention measures. Each letter represents a different level of measures. A step in the hierarchy is only allowed for carcinogenic substances when there is a technical restriction: economic reasons are not valid. When a carcinogenic substance is not replaced, exposure should be reduced as much as is technically possible: not only below occupational exposure limits (if any), but as as possible.

2. *Number the levels of the STOP principle below from the most protective level (1) to the least protective level (4).*

- Workers individually use protective equipment to protect themselves from exposure to carcinogens.
- Alternative substances are sought to replace the dangerous substances.
- Measures are taken that determine how long, where and which workers are exposed to dangerous substances. Workers are also given appropriate training to know how to work safely with dangerous substances.
- Measures are taken to ensure that workers' exposure to dangerous substances is avoided or minimised at source.

3. *Indicate all the options below that belong to organisational measures. Several options are possible.*

- Providing ventilation so that dangerous substances are evacuated.
- Restriction of the number and type of persons authorised to enter specific work areas containing carcinogenic substances.
- Regular and appropriate training of workers on how to work safely with carcinogens.
- Ensuring that the work process is carried out in a closed system so that the dangerous substances cannot be released during work.

Name: Date:

4. *Complete the statement below with the correct word.*

The very first option to consider in preventing exposure of workers to a carcinogenic substance is substitution. In this case, the employer must look for alternative substances that are not harmful to workers' health, or at least less harmful than the original substance. A synonym for substitution is thus

5. *Cross out the wrong words in the following statement*

Personal protective equipment (PPE) can only be used to complement measures higher up the hierarchy and is considered the **first choice/last resort** to protect workers against exposure to dangerous substances.