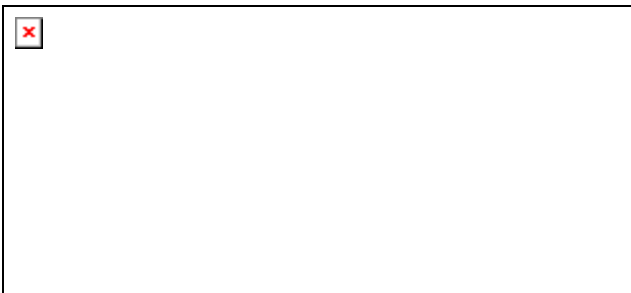




Sharing Occupational Exposure Data : An Industry Perspective

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What are the Imperatives?

- ***The question is one that continues to be asked but which seems to never have been satisfactorily answered***
 - **So why ask it again?**
- **Repeated re-invention of the wheel**
- **Globalisation of risks**
- **Trend towards less technical resource**
- **Monitoring is becoming increasingly expensive**
 - **Need for improved exposure models e.g. ART**
- **No obvious established mechanism/vehicle for experience sharing**
 - **Beyond national institutions and their *ad hoc* activities**

What Exposure Data/Information Does Industry Routinely Hold ?



Data

- Airborne measurements
- Biological monitoring
- Emissions records
- Production records

Information

- Contextual information
- Health risk assessments
- Personnel records
- Exposure control efficiencies :
direct and indirect e.g. mass
balances; IPPC
- Product registers
- Compositional data

What Might be the Barriers?



Legal

- **Specific regulatory requirements**
- **Personal data confidentiality**
- **Competition law considerations over data sharing**
- **Potential liability**

Business

- **Focus on the present and not on the past**
- **Effort required to retrieve old data sets**
- **Embarrassment over the potential findings**

Are There Other Constraints?



The reality ...

- **Equates to the legal/business barriers plus human nature**

Changing the hygienist's mindset

- ✓ **Ensure that data collected are obtained and recorded in a manner consistent with 'good practice'**
- ✓ **Facilitate mechanisms that enable improved data sharing within and between organisations**
- ✓ **Resolve to push back against the 'convenient excuse'**



A Way Forward?

- **We need to recognise and accept the issue is one that requires resolution**
- **We must work together more effectively**
 - Pursuit of perfection is the enemy of the good
 - Search out ‘the art of the possible’
 - Data collection ‘standards’
 - Sectors
 - Professions
 - National associations
- **Look to where we want to get to and then plan a route**
 - Change won’t happen tomorrow
- **Need peer opinion formers to establish the ground rules against which others will eventually be judged**
- **The solution is global and not UK-centric**

Might the BOHS Play a Role?



- **The Annals is the leading occupational hygiene journal**
- **The rigour of the review process should ensure that data support the principle findings**
- **But the utility of many of the papers extends beyond that of the findings themselves**
 - e.g. the general relevance of the data for best practice development; building/refining databases; etc
- **In this respect, the usefulness/value of many Annals publications could be substantially improved if the raw data supporting the publication were also made available**
- **In the past, the cost of paper publication was a legitimate reason for constraining the length of any publication**
 - **But the process of electronic publication now enables a more forward looking approach to be adopted**



Other Implications

- **Can REACH present a stimulus?**
 - If more data needs to be obtained, then what data quality parameters need to/should be applied?
- **ART – identification and coding of *relevant* occupational hygiene information/data**