
Data collection: Getting from there to here

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Health and Safety
Executive

In the beginning

- Contextual information
 - What the operator was doing
 - How dusty did it look
- Exposure measurement
 - Pumps
 - Samplers
 - Analysis technology



Examples of data use

- Trends in Exposure
 - HSE funded project with IOM
 - Yearly trend to lower exposure for most substances
- Models
 - EASE
 - BEAT



Examples of data use



- Guidance
 - COSHH essentials
- Limit setting



1986 - The computer age

The Computer Facility

DIGITAL EQUIPMENT
CORPORATION

VAX 11/750 Mini-computer

(4M Bytes CPU)

+ Fixed Disc (456 M Bytes)

+ Magnetic Tape Back up

+ Heavy duty line printer

+ 2 colour graphics

(VT 240 Terminals)

+ 3 B/W Terminals

(VT 220)

+ 5 text/graphics printers

(4 LA 50's

1 LA 210)



1986 - The computer age

The system needed to handle, in the first instance, some 600 HSE visit reports per annum. **In the longer term a far greater amount of data than this is anticipated from industry.**

There is great international interest in recording exposure data. In 1987 a Conference organised jointly by HSE, BOHS and IOH in Manchester was attended by over 200 delegates from all over the world.

Standardisation



- 1997 – European proposal for core information for the storage and exchange of workplace exposure measurements on chemical agents
- 1996 – Joint ACGIH and AIHA task group on occupational exposure databases

Alternatives to measurement?

- Questionnaire analysis
 - BOHS
 - Web based questionnaire by HSE and IOSH
 - Lack specificity, potential for calibration?

What about data sharing?

- Workshop on co-operation on data sharing
 - Representative data
 - Defined methodologies
 - All metrics
- Data sharing models
 - Common format
 - Data security
 - Pilot exercise
 - Ownership