



Chemicals and the World of Work: the ILO Normative Agenda on Chemicals

26 May 2026

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ILO

▶ Introduction: Why are we here?

At its 350th Session (March 2024), the Governing Body decided to place on the agenda of the 115th Session (2027) of the International Labour Conference an item on the **consolidation of instruments on chemical hazards** for standard-setting on the basis of a double discussion.

Five instruments regulating single chemical substances were classified by the Standards Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG) as “**requiring further action to ensure continued and future relevance**”:

- ▶ the White Phosphorus Recommendation, 1919 (**No. 6**);
- ▶ the Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (**No. 4**);
- ▶ the White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (**No. 13**);
- ▶ the Benzene Convention, 1971 (**No. 136**);
- ▶ the Benzene Recommendation, 1971 (**No. 144**).

ILC.115/Report IV(1)

Chemicals and the World of Work

Fourth item on the agenda of the 115th Session of the International Labour Conference (2027):
standard-setting, first discussion



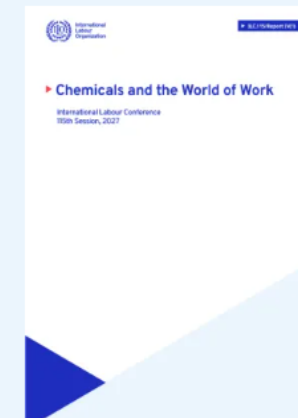
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This report contains a questionnaire which, in accordance with article 46 of the Standing Orders of the International Labour Conference, calls for a reply from Governments, after consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers. The replies to the questionnaire will form the basis of the background report for the Conference discussion.

All replies should be submitted by email to chemicalhazards@ilo.org using the questionnaire below and saved in Word (.docx) format only, and not in PDF or any other format. They must reach the Office no later than 30 June 2026.

ILC115-Report-IV(1)-Questionnaire.docx - DOCX 63.39 KB

Resource details

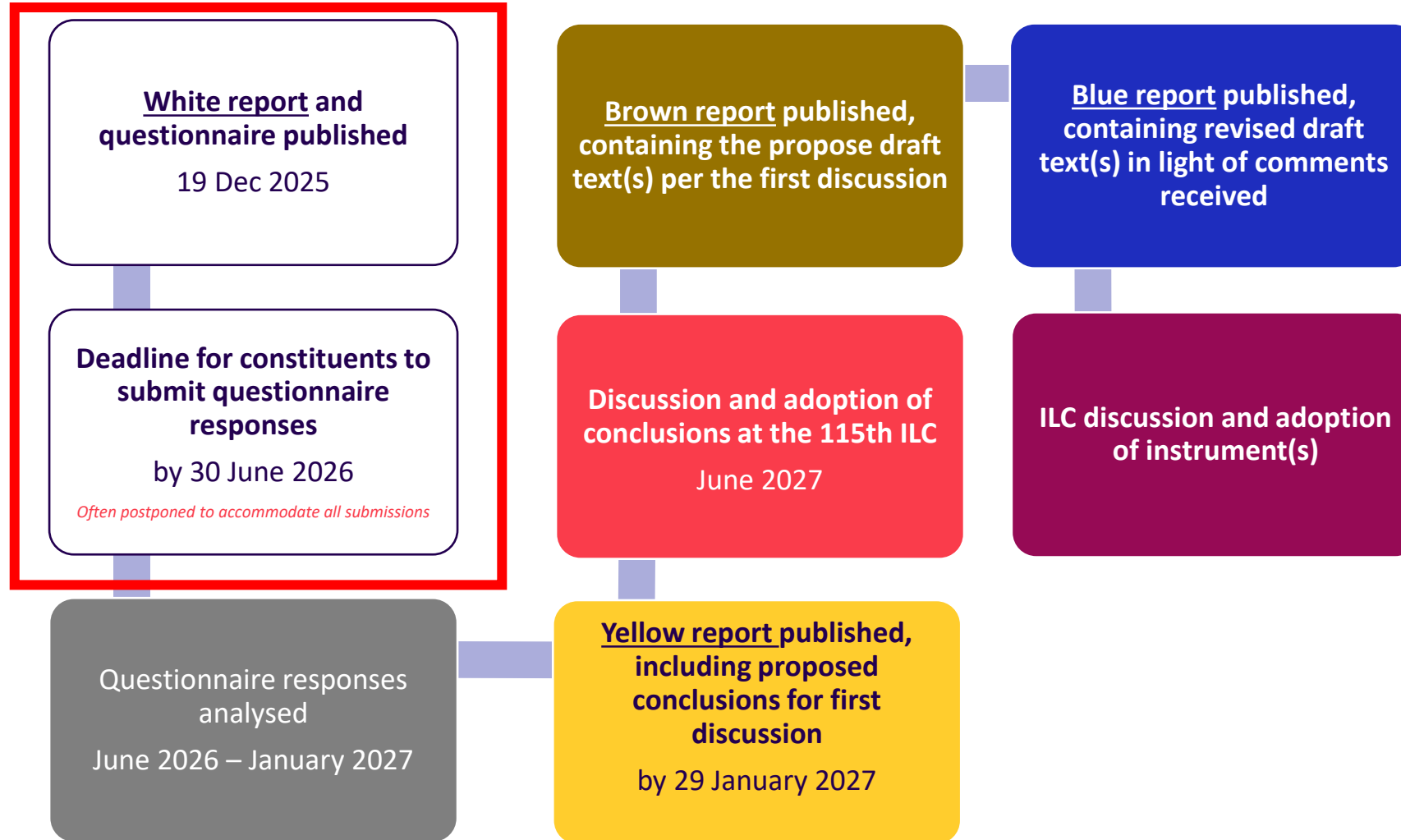


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Timeline of the chemicals standard-setting process



Why chemicals? A global health concern

While chemicals are part of our daily lives and are essential for economic development, they can have toxic properties hazardous to health.

- ▶ Every year more than **1 million workers lose their lives** due to hazardous substances in the workplace, including pollutants, dusts, vapours and fumes.
- ▶ Many lives are lost due to **fatal diseases, cancers and poisonings**, or from fatal injuries following fires or explosions.
- ▶ The burden of non-fatal injuries, resulting in **disability and debilitating chronic diseases**, must also be considered.
- ▶ Costs to society: 4% of global GDP is lost annually as a result of occupational injuries and diseases).

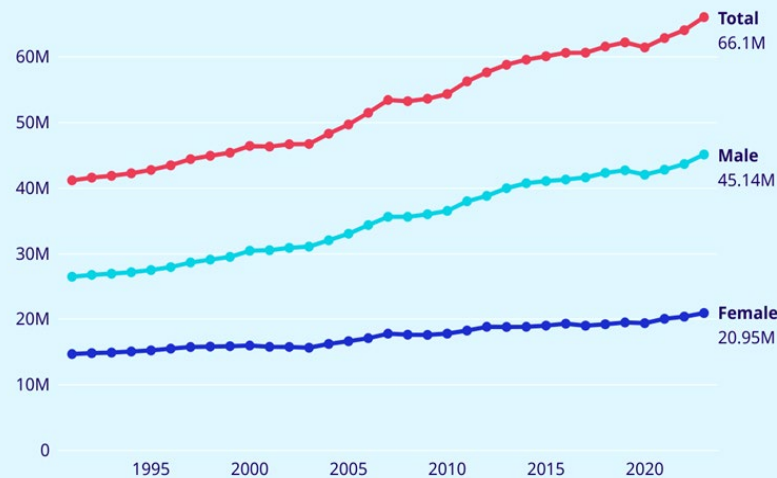


The growth of chemicals industries

- ▶ In 2023, the chemical industries employed **~67 million workers** worldwide and was valued at **€5.2 trillion**.
- ▶ The workforce has increased by over **60 per cent** since 1991, driven by increased participation in Asia and the Pacific.
- ▶ By 2030, the industry is projected to **double in value** compared to 2017 levels.

▶ Global Employment in the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals sectors

Employment trends in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors, by sex, from 1991 to 2023.

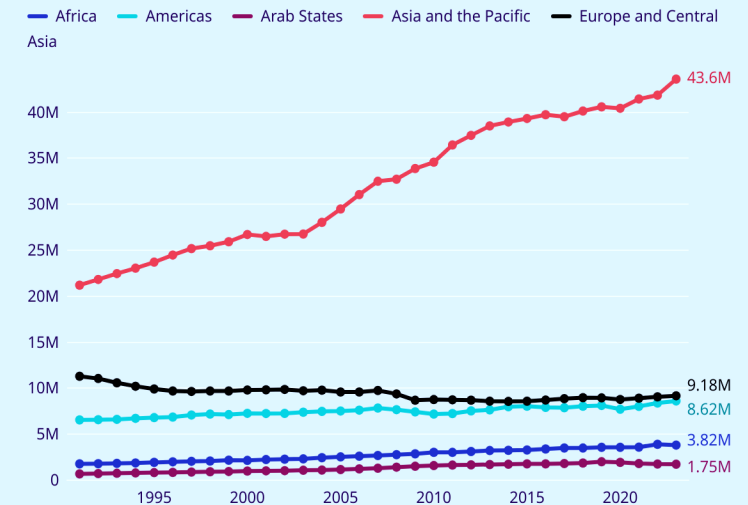


Data is based on modelled estimates produced by the ILO. The ILO defines the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors at the 2-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4. as the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products; manufacture of chemicals and chemical products; manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products; manufacture of rubber and plastics products; and the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products

Chart: Sectoral Policies Department • Source: ILOSTAT

▶ Total Regional Employment in the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals sectors

Regional employment trends in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors from 1991 to 2023.



Data is based on modelled estimates produced by the ILO. The ILO defines the chemicals and pharmaceuticals sectors at the 2-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) Rev.4. as the manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products; manufacture of chemicals and chemical products; manufacture of pharmaceuticals, medicinal chemical and botanical products; manufacture of rubber and plastics products; and the manufacture of other non-metallic mineral products.

Chart: Sectoral Policies Department • Source: ILOSTAT

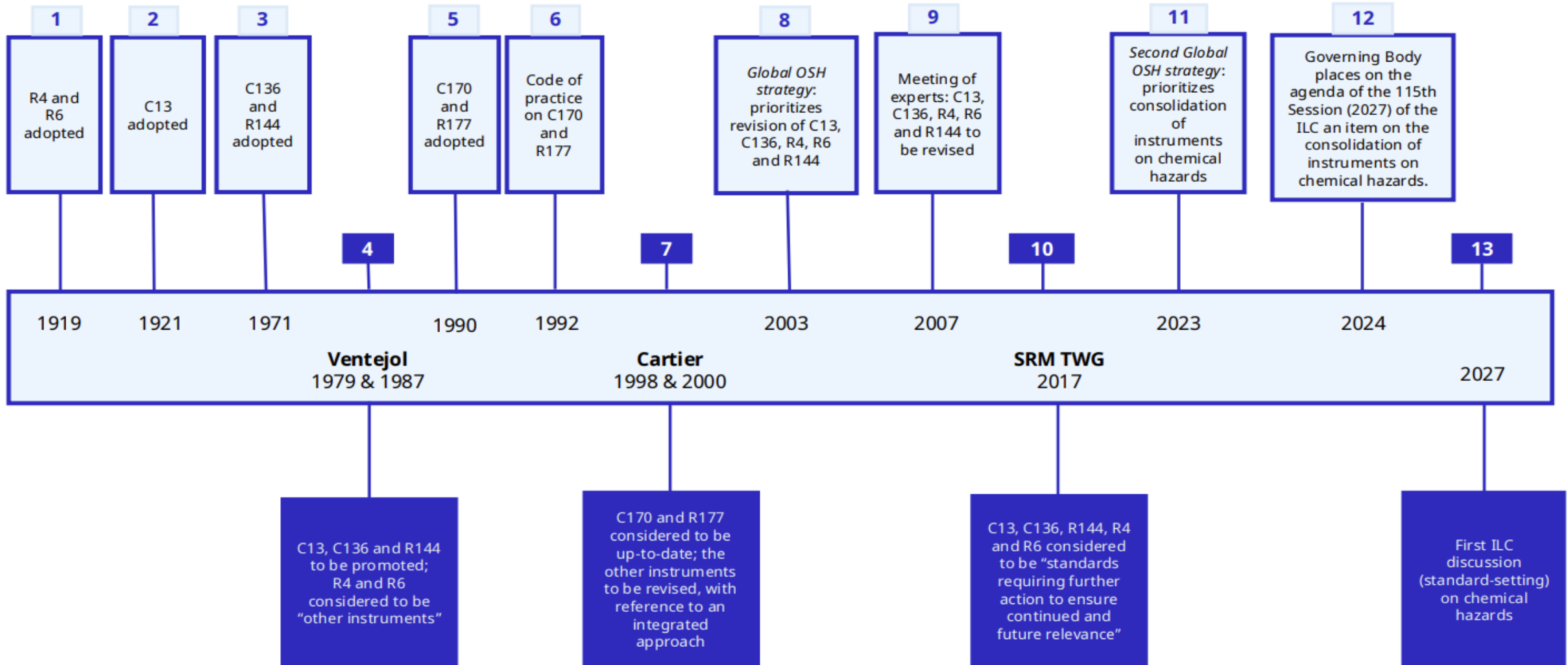
Types of chemicals

Workers may be exposed to chemicals across many sectors, and in various different forms:

- ▶ gases (chlorine, ammonia);
- ▶ liquids (solvents, paints, pesticides);
- ▶ vapours (volatilized materials, pesticides);
- ▶ fumes (welding fume);
- ▶ dusts and powders (silica);
- ▶ fibres (asbestos).



The ILO response: Chronology of ILS on chemical hazards



▶ 1919: White Phosphorus Recommendation, 1919 (No. 6)

- ▶ White phosphorus exposure caused “**phossy jaw**”, a serious necrosis of the jawbone among match factory workers.
- ▶ Adopted by the ILO in 1919, this was one of the ILO’s first occupational safety instruments. It is an autonomous instrument, not linked to a Convention.
- ▶ Its **scope is limited**, recommending that Member States adhere to the International Convention adopted at Berne in 1906, which prohibits the use of white (yellow) phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.
- ▶ White phosphorus is still used in chemical industry and military applications. However, these uses are **not covered by Recommendation No. 6**, which is limited to matches.



▶ 1919: Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (No. 4)

- ▶ Objective: Protect **women and young persons** from the health hazards of **lead exposure**.
- ▶ Adopted by the ILO in 1919, also one of the firsts OSH instruments.
- ▶ Due to the danger that lead poses to maternity and the physical development of children, women and young persons under the age of 18 years **should be excluded from employment in certain hazardous work processes involving lead**.
- ▶ **Blanket ban on women's participation.**



▶ 1921: White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)

- ▶ Objective: Protect workers from health risks of **white lead and lead sulphate** in paints.
- ▶ Was adopted in 1921 and currently has 63 ratifications.
- ▶ Ban on use of white lead in **internal building painting** except under specific conditions.
- ▶ **Women and men under 18** prohibited from industrial painting with lead (**Blanket ban on women's participation**).
- ▶ The Convention prescribes specific engineering controls, the provision of adequate washing facilities and protective clothing, the notification of cases of poisoning and medical examination, instructions on hygiene measures; compliance measures, and collection of statistics on morbidity and mortality.



▶ 1971: Benzene Convention (No. 136) and Recommendation (No. 144), 1971

- ▶ Objective: protect workers from health hazards arising from **exposure to benzene and products containing benzene**.
- ▶ The instruments were adopted in 1971, and the Convention has 38 ratifications.
- ▶ The Convention establishes a **quantitative exposure limit for benzene** exposure, engineering controls, medical surveillance, training and information, personal protective equipment and labelling requirements.
- ▶ The Recommendation suggests substituting benzene with less hazardous substances, prohibiting its use in certain work processes and products, and adopting technical measures to prevent hazards, medical surveillance, proper labelling and container management.



Occupational exposure limit for benzene

	Time-weighted average (TWA) over an 8-hour work shift	Short-term exposure limit (STEL) for 15 minutes	Ceiling value
Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)	-	-	25 ppm
OSHA	1 ppm	5 ppm	
NIOSH	0.1 ppm (averaged over a 10- hour work shift)	1 ppm	-
ACGIH	0.02 ppm		-
ECHA RAC (BOELV)	0.5 ppm (0.2 ppm after 2026)		-
Safe Work Australia	1 ppm		-
WES (Safe Work New Zealand)	0.05 ppm		-

▶ 1990: Chemicals Convention (No. 170) and Recommendation (No. 177), 1990

- ▶ Objective: To ensure safety in the use of chemicals at work and protect workers' health through regulation, information, and cooperation.
- ▶ Applies to all sectors and all chemicals (natural or synthetic); covers production, handling, storage, transport, disposal, and waste.

Key principles

- ▶ National policies on chemical safety developed with employers and workers.
- ▶ Classification, labelling, and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) required for hazardous chemicals.
- ▶ Employers: identify and control risks, provide PPE, training, and safe disposal.
- ▶ Workers: follow safety procedures, cooperate, and have rights to information and to refuse dangerous work.
- ▶ **Trade implications – responsibility of the competent authority in exporting States: notify importing countries of banned/restricted chemicals (Article 19).**

▶ Other OSH instruments relevant to chemicals hazards

- ▶ **Fundamental OSH Conventions:** Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155), and Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187).
- ▶ Occupational Cancer Convention (No. 139) and Recommendation (No. 147), 1974.
- ▶ Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention (No. 148) and Recommendation (No. 156), 1977.
- ▶ Safety and Health in Construction Convention (No. 167) and Recommendation (No. 174), 1988.
- ▶ Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention (No. 174) and Recommendation (No. 181), 1993.
- ▶ Safety and Health in Mines Convention (No. 176) and Recommendation (No. 183), 1995.
- ▶ Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention (No. 184) and Recommendation (No. 192), 2001.
- ▶ List of Occupational Diseases Recommendation, 2002 (No. 194).

▶ 2017: Standard Review Mechanism Tripartite Working Group (SRM TWG)

Key findings

- ▶ The current ILO OSH framework, notably Convention No. 170 and its Recommendation, provides a strong foundation (up-to-date).
- ▶ However, coexistence with five older, chemical-specific standards (lead, benzene, white phosphorus) reduces overall coherence.
- ▶ **Notably, three key concerns:**
 1. employment of women (Blanket bans are considered discriminatory);
 2. occupational exposure limits (OELs) - need to be regularly reviewed and updated;
 3. exporting responsibilities for hazardous chemicals need further clarity.

In 2017, the SRM TWG recommended that the Governing Body consider follow-up action involving, at the earliest possible date: **the consolidation of the chemical instruments through placing an item to this effect on the agenda of the International Labour Conference.**

SRM TWG concern 1: Employment restrictions for women

Early 20th century: Blanket bans

In its early years, the ILO adopted several instruments specifically aimed at regulating women's work. Key examples include:

- ▶ Maternity Protection Convention, 1919 (No. 3);
- ▶ Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919 (No. 4);
- ▶ **Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (No. 4);**
- ▶ Underground Work (Women) Convention, 1935 (No. 45).

These instruments reflected a protective approach that imposed **blanket bans on women's participation** in certain jobs.

This approach came under scrutiny for being **discriminatory**. It overlooked similar risks faced by male workers and failed to ensure safer working conditions for everyone. It also restricted women's access to specific sectors and roles, limiting their economic opportunities and reinforcing gender inequality in the workplace.



► Employment restrictions for women

Towards a risk-based approach

In more recent years, the ILO has moved toward a more individualized, risk-based approach to workplace safety and health. This shift emphasizes flexibility and personal agency.

- **Employers** are encouraged to assess workplace risks and adapt working conditions *on a case-by-case basis*, considering the specific needs and situations of workers.
- **Workers**, especially those who are pregnant or nursing, are given greater autonomy to accept or refuse assignments, or to request transfers, based on concerns related to reproductive health.

The **Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183)**, reflects this approach.

- It does not prohibit employment of pregnant or nursing women in certain sectors or processes but instead stipulates that they should not be obliged to perform work that poses a significant risk to their health or that of their child.

The **Maternity Protection Recommendation, 2000 (No. 191)**, lists alternative measures that can be adopted, such as the transfer to another post without loss of pay and paid leave when such transfer is not feasible.

▶ SRM TWG concern 2: **Occupational exposure limits**

- ▶ OELs specify the **maximum concentration** of a chemical in workplace air that is not expected to cause adverse health effects over a defined exposure period.
- ▶ They provide a scientifically grounded tool for assessing and managing chemical risks, especially for substances with low or no immediate warning signs.
- ▶ Aim to protect workers from acute and long-term occupational illness, including reproductive effects and effects on future generations.
- ▶ Can be **regulatory** (binding) or **authoritative/indicative** (non-binding).

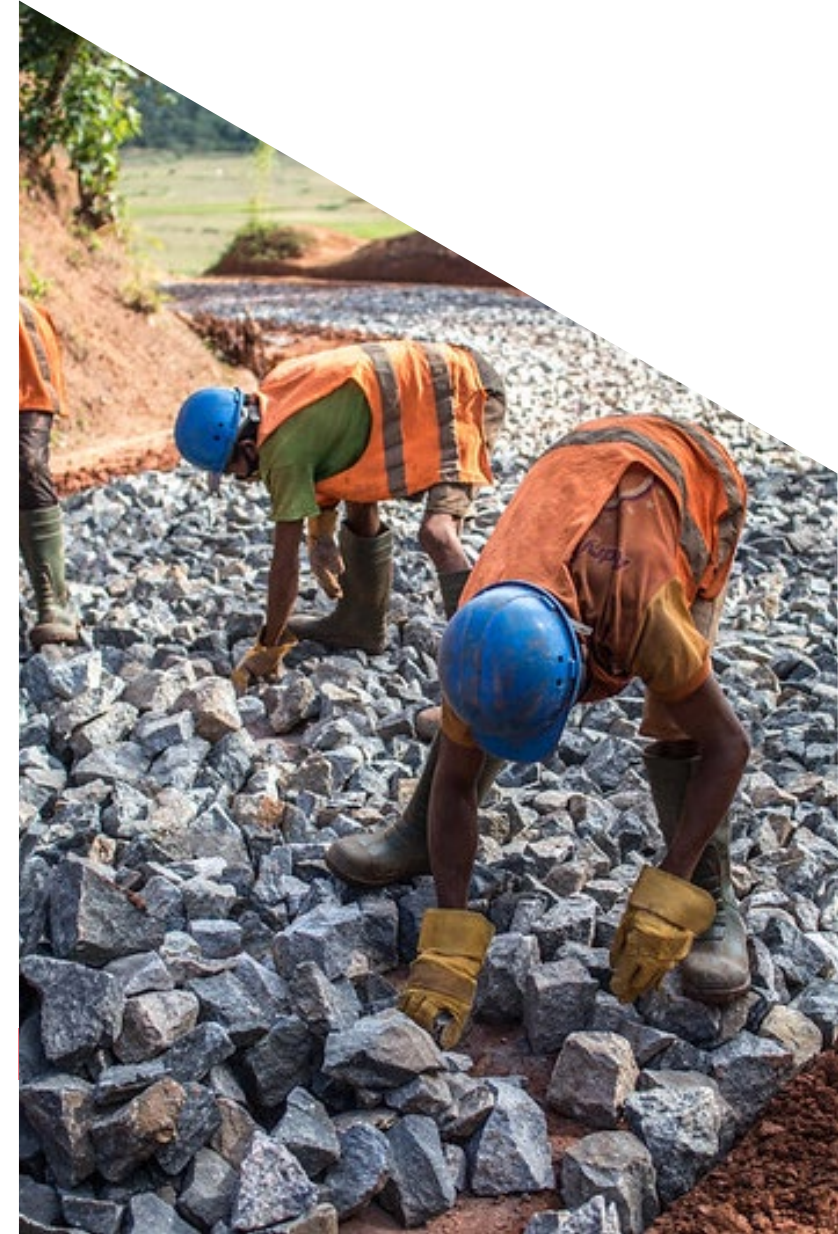


Occupational exposure limit for benzene

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ACGIH	0.02 ppm		-
ECHA RAC (BOELV)	0.5 ppm (0.2 ppm after 2026)		-
Safe Work Australia	1 ppm		-
WES (Safe Work New Zealand)	0.05 ppm		-

SRM TWG concern 3: **Exporting responsibilities**

- Article 19 of Convention No. 170: The exporting State must inform importing States if all or some uses of hazardous chemicals are prohibited for OSH reasons.
- While Convention No. 170 is mostly oriented to national level obligations, Article 19 addresses international trade.
- This provision aims to ensure transparency and the exchange of critical safety information in international trade. However, Member States indicated difficulties in applying this provision.
- SRM technical note indicated that other international instruments, such as the Rotterdam Convention contains more far-reaching information and other requirements in relation to hazardous chemicals.





A review of national regulatory frameworks



▶ Global context

Most of the 64 countries examined have legislation covering one or more aspects of chemical use at work. Provisions are typically structured as:

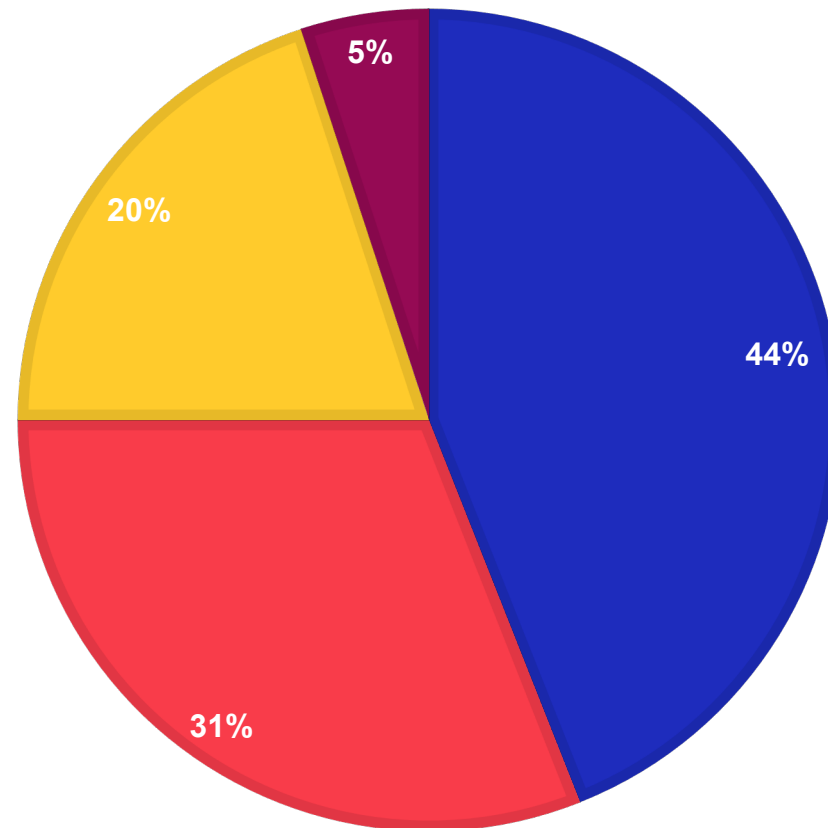
- ▶ embedded within **broader labour legislation**, such as Labour Codes or OSH Acts;
- ▶ or as **specific regulations** dedicated to occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals, depending on each country's OSH approach.

Some countries do not have specific OSH provisions on chemical use at work, instead relying on **general chemical safety laws** and the sound management of chemicals, which often include measures relevant to workers' safety and health.

Around 80% of countries have specific provisions on chemical hazards within their OSH legal framework.

Regulatory approaches to chemical hazards and OSH

- Stand-alone OSH legislation on chemical hazards
- Provisions within Labour Code or OSH Act
- General chemical safety law only



OSH legislation regulating the chemicals typically includes:

- ▶ risk assessment;
- ▶ control measures;
- ▶ preventive and protective measures;
- ▶ medical surveillance;
- ▶ recording and notification of occupational diseases and accidents.

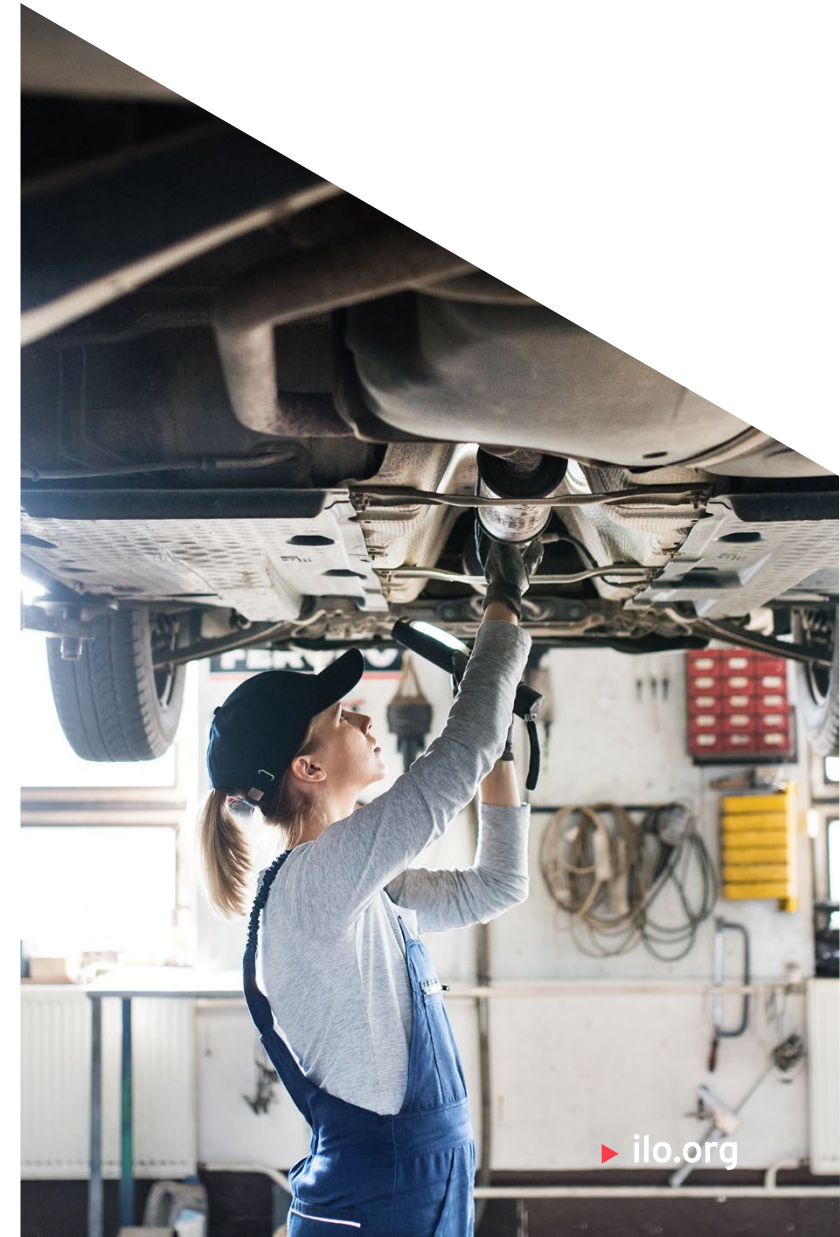
► SRM TWG concern 1: Employment restrictions for women

National law and practice

- 23% of countries maintain blanket prohibitions (e.g., Nigeria, Thailand – mining, explosives, lead work).
- 30% of countries restrict pregnant/nursing women in hazardous roles (e.g., Jordan, Japan, Germany, Senegal).
- 25% of countries implement right-to-refuse policies (e.g., Uruguay, Croatia, France).

Recent reforms: Countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and UAE have narrowed or repealed broad prohibitions to promote equality and inclusion.

Risk assessment and modern OSH practices: Risk assessments complement regulatory lists to tailor protections to actual hazards; hierarchy of controls applied to eliminate or mitigate risks before removing workers.



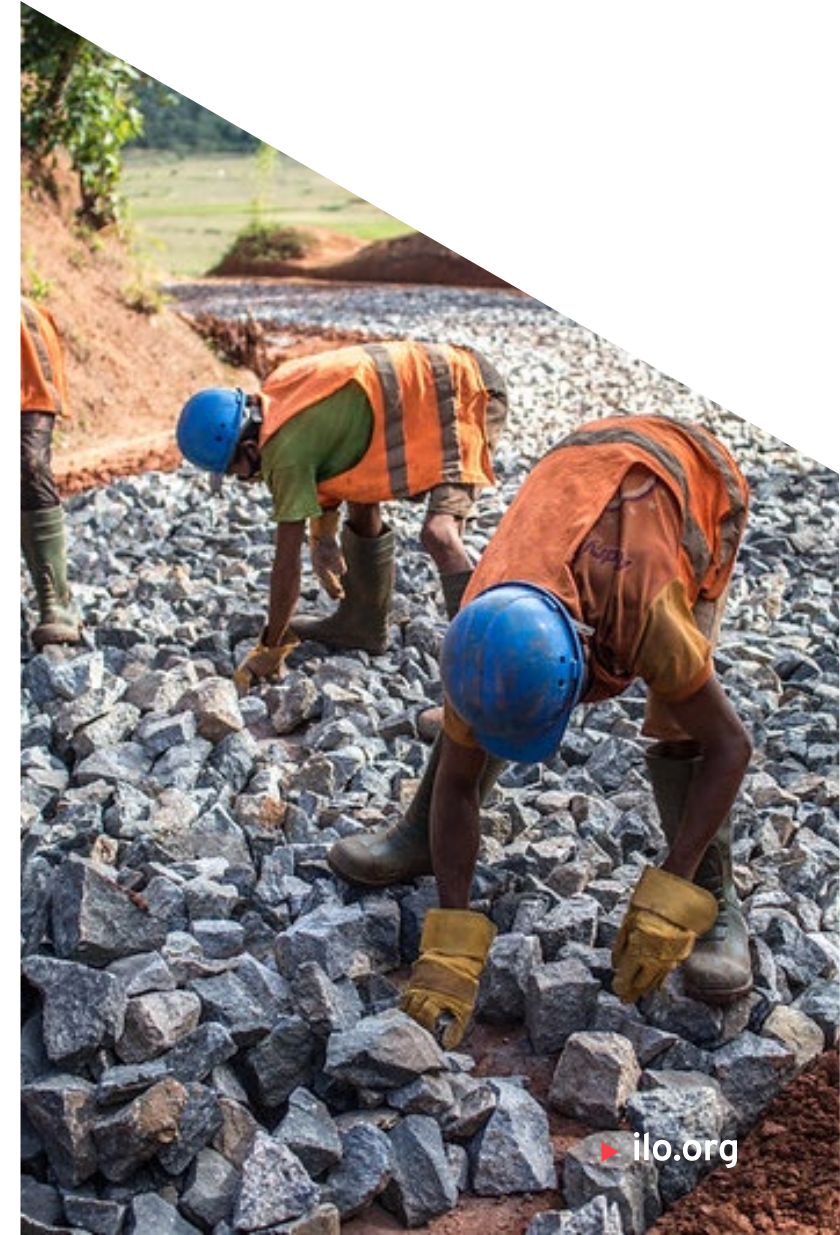
► SRM TWG concern 2: **Occupational exposure limits**

National law and practice

- Out of 64 countries reviewed, 32% seem to have no provisions establishing OEL.
- Among countries with OELs, 95% have numeric national lists; ~50% adopt widely recognized international OELs (such as ACGIH TLVs); 43% do not adopt up-to-date standards; 12% unclear on international references.
- Basis for OEL development: 44% use health-based criteria only; 25% combine health and feasibility (economic/technical) considerations; 31% have no clear disclosure of basis.
- Some countries lack OELs or have outdated limits without formal review mechanisms (Brazil, Guatemala, USA).
- Others periodically update OEL frameworks based on scientific and practical feedback (Dominican Republic, South Africa).
- OELs may be legally binding or non-binding, sometimes derived from international sources.

SRM TWG concern 3: Exporting responsibilities

- ▶ While Convention No. 170 does not specify a methodology for export notification, **the Rotterdam and Basel Conventions establish a specific framework**, including detailed information requirements, timeframes and the mandatory designation of national authorities to oversee implementation.
- ▶ While the implementation of Article 19 was previously challenging for some Member States, resulting in pending points in earlier comments, recent comments indicate improved compliance.
- ▶ Convention No. 170 and the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions complement each other in establishing trade control procedures including notifications related to international trade in hazardous chemicals and wastes.
- ▶ **Effective implementation of this obligation could be strengthened through enhanced coordination between Basel and Rotterdam Convention.**



▶ Exporting responsibilities

Application in law and practice

- ▶ EU PIC Regulation: Governs the export notification procedure. It stipulates that exports of hazardous chemicals that are banned or severely restricted within the EU should be subject to a common export notification procedure and that chemicals subject to the PIC procedure should also be subject to the same export notification rules.
- ▶ In Norway, export notifications must be submitted to the Norwegian Environment Agency for industrial chemicals and biocides, and to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for pesticides, within 30 or 60 days, depending on the specific chemical.
- ▶ In New Zealand, the export of banned chemicals and severely restricted chemicals is prohibited unless the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) grants a permit, which may be issued only if an export notification has been sent to and acknowledged by the importing Rotterdam Party.



▶ Questionnaire at a glance



▶ Questionnaire at a glance

The purpose of the questionnaire is to obtain the views of Member States, following consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, on the form, scope and content of possible future standard(s) on chemicals.

▶ Sections of the questionnaire:

- I. Form of the instrument(s)
- II. Preamble
- III. Definitions
- IV. General provisions
- V. Methods of application
- VI. Other considerations

▶ General structure:

- ▶ Dropdown
(Yes/No)
- ▶ Comment box

1. Should the International Labour Conference adopt an instrument or instruments consolidating existing international labour standards on chemicals?

2. If so, should the instrument or instruments consolidate and revise: ²
 - the Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (No. 4)?
 - the White Phosphorus Recommendation, 1919 (No. 6)?
 - the White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)?
 - the Benzene Convention, 1971 (No. 136)?
 - the Benzene Recommendation, 1971 (No. 144)?

3. Should the instrument or instruments take the form of:
 - (a) a Convention?
 - (b) a Recommendation?
 - (c) a Convention supplemented by a Recommendation?
 - (d) a Protocol to the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170)?
 - (e) a Protocol to the Chemicals Convention, 1990 (No. 170), supplemented by a Recommendation?
 - (f) a Convention comprising mandatory provisions and provisions providing guidance? ³
 - (g) a Protocol comprising mandatory provisions and provisions providing guidance? ⁴

I. Form of the international instrument or instruments

4. Should the Preamble of the instrument or instruments recall the inclusion of a safe and healthy working environment in the ILO's framework of fundamental principles and rights at work by the International Labour Conference at its 110th Session (2022)?

5. Should the Preamble of the instrument or instruments note the need to pursue coherence of chemicals-related international labour standards, in the light of scientific, regulatory and societal developments since their adoption, in order to achieve safe chemicals management and ensure the continued and future relevance of international labour standards in this area?

6. Should the Preamble of the instrument or instruments note the need to consolidate and revise the White Phosphorus Recommendation, 1919 (No. 6), the White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13), the Lead Poisoning (Women and Children) Recommendation, 1919 (No. 4), and the Benzene Convention (No. 136) and Recommendation (No. 144), 1971?

7. Should the Preamble of the instrument or instruments recall the continued relevance of the Chemicals Convention (No. 170) and Recommendation (No. 177), 1990, further noting that the new instrument or instruments would complement these up-to-date standards?

8. Should the Preamble of the instrument or instruments note the relevance of international instruments, frameworks and programmes for the sound management of chemicals and waste, such as:

- the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
- the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade;
- the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants;
- the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
- the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
- the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS);
- the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)?

9. Should other considerations be included in the Preamble of the instrument or instruments? If so, please specify.

10. Should the instrument or instruments include definitions? If so, please specify.

▶ General provisions section: Topics covered

- ▶ SRM: Occupational exposure limits (OELs)
- ▶ SRM: Non-discrimination (gender)
- ▶ SRM: Information exchange (trade)
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Classification and labelling of chemicals
- ▶ Health surveillance
- ▶ Reporting, recording and notification of occupational accidents and occupational diseases and collection of data
- ▶ Chemical hazards, extreme weather events and changing weather patterns
- ▶ Occupational safety and health across supply chains
- ▶ Compliance with laws and regulations
- ▶ Amendments



Occupational exposure limits

11. Should the instrument or instruments provide that the competent authority should fix occupational exposure limits or other exposure criteria for chemicals, as appropriate, and periodically review and update them in the light of technological progress and advances in scientific knowledge?
12. Should the instrument or instruments provide that the competent authority should make public in a timely manner information on occupational exposure limits or other exposure criteria for chemicals?
13. Should the instrument or instruments provide that the competent authority should define the sampling and analytical methods for assessing compliance with occupational exposure limits for chemicals?

Non-discrimination

14. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should ensure that any prohibition or restriction on employment in specific occupations or tasks involving the use of chemicals is based on a risk-based approach that ensures equal opportunity and treatment for women and men?

Information exchange

15. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should make arrangements, as appropriate, for the exchange of information and for coordination on hazardous chemicals among relevant national authorities, including environmental, public health, and occupational safety and health authorities, and with scientific institutions, including when applying Article 19 of Convention No. 170? ⁵

Research

16. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should make arrangements, as appropriate, to promote and support research on the use of chemicals at work where the available information is insufficient?

Classification and labelling of chemicals

17. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should make arrangements to ensure that their system of classification and labelling of chemicals, as required under Articles 6 and 7 of Convention No. 170,⁶ is aligned, where appropriate, with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)?



Health surveillance

- 18.** Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should make arrangements to ensure that workers who are involved in work processes where they are exposed or liable to be exposed to certain hazardous chemicals, as determined by the national authority, should undergo:
- (a) a thorough pre-assignment medical examination;
 - (b) periodic examinations at intervals fixed by national laws and regulations.
- 19.** Should the instrument or instruments provide that such medical examinations should be:
- (a) carried out under the responsibility of a qualified medical practitioner with the assistance, as appropriate, of a competent laboratory?
 - (b) certified in an appropriate manner?
 - (c) carried out, to the extent possible, during working hours?
 - (d) at no cost to workers?



Reporting, recording and notification of occupational accidents and occupational diseases and collection of data

- 20.** Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should, in accordance with national conditions and practice and in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, establish, implement and periodically review procedures for:
- (a) the reporting, recording, notification and investigation of occupational accidents and occupational diseases that are caused by exposure to chemical hazards and, as appropriate, dangerous occurrences, by the employer or by any other person responsible?

 - (b) the production and publication of annual statistics, disaggregated by sex, on occupational accidents and occupational diseases caused by exposure to chemical hazards and, as appropriate, dangerous occurrences?

 - (c) the holding of inquiries by the competent authorities into serious cases of occupational accidents, occupational diseases or any other injuries to health caused by exposure to chemical hazards?



Chemical hazards, extreme weather events and changing weather patterns

21. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should evaluate risks and take preventive and protective measures to address risks arising from the use of chemicals at work that are aggravated or altered by extreme weather events and changing weather patterns?

Occupational safety and health across supply chains

22. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members, in consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers, should establish measures to address occupational safety and health risks arising from the transfer and handling of chemicals within outsourced production arrangements, including cases not covered by the supplier obligations set out in Article 9 of Convention No. 170?
23. Should the instrument or instruments further specify that such measures aim to ensure the communication of relevant chemical hazard information and preventive measures throughout all stages of the production process?



Compliance with laws and regulations

24. Should the instrument or instruments provide that Members should ensure the enforcement of national laws and regulations concerning the use of chemicals at work through an adequate and appropriate system of inspection and, where applicable, other mechanisms for ensuring compliance?
25. Should the instrument or instruments establish that Members should provide for adequate penalties and remedial measures for violations of national laws and regulations concerning the use of chemicals at work and ensure their effective application?

Amendments

26. Should a procedure for amending specific provisions be considered when drafting the instrument or instruments in order to ensure their continued relevance in the light of scientific, toxicological or regulatory developments impacting the prevention of exposure to chemical hazards in the working environment?
27. If so, please indicate the topics or subject areas related to the regulation of chemical hazards for which a simplified amendment procedure could be appropriate, if any.

V. Methods of application

28. Should the instrument, if it takes the form of a Convention or a Protocol, provide that Members should give effect to it by means of national laws and regulations, as well as through collective agreements or other measures consistent with national practice?

VI. Other considerations

29. Are there unique features of national law or practice that are liable to create difficulties in the practical application of the instrument or instruments?
30. (For federal States only) In the event of the instrument or instruments being adopted, would the subject matter be appropriate for federal action or, wholly or in part, for action by the constituent units of the federation?
31. Are there any other pertinent issues not covered by the present questionnaire that ought to be considered when drafting the instrument or instruments?

▶ Responding to the questionnaire

- ▶ Governments should fill out the questionnaire (in electronic **fillable word format** ONLY!) with reasons for their replies **AFTER** consultation with the most representative organizations of employers and workers
- ▶ Send by email to chemicalhazards@ilo.org
- ▶ **Responses are to be received no later than 30 June 2026!**
- ▶ The Office will prepare the yellow report based on replies it receives to the questionnaire.





THANK YOU
Halshka GRACZYK, ILO
graczyk@ilo.org