3 steps to manage dangerous substances
- Identify hazards
- Assess exposure
- Set measures
Dangerous substances can lead to
- acute and long-term health problems due to skin/eye contact, ingestion, inhalation
- safety risks (e.g. fire, explosion)
The new CLP signs are compulsory on the chemical container labels as of June 1, 2017.
Effective management of safety and health risks in the workplace benefits everyone involved.
Healthy Workplaces
MANAGE DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

May 2019

The STOP principle
• Substitution (safe or less harmful alternatives)
• Technological measures (e.g. closed system, local exhaust ventilation)
• Organisational measures (e.g. limiting the number of exposed workers or the exposure time)
• Personal protection (wearing PPE)
17% of EU workers report handling or being in skin contact with chemical products or substances for at least 25% of their working time.
A prevention culture must be created to successfully prevent the ill health, injuries and deaths caused by dangerous substances.
15% of EU workers report breathing in smoke, fumes (such as welding or exhaust fumes), powder or dust (such as wood dust or mineral dust) for at least 25% of their working time.
Priority should be the substitution of dangerous substances with less dangerous substances or safer materials or of a process with one that is not hazardous or less hazardous.
Taking action to eliminate or reduce exposure to dangerous substances helps protect workers from a range of accidents and health problems.
The limited adaptation of PPE to certain groups is a critical workplace health and safety issue. This poses both health hazards (e.g. when respirators don’t protect adequately against chemicals) as well as safety hazards (e.g. where loose clothing can expose employees to eye/skin contact with reactive/toxic chemicals).
Under EU legislation, particularly stringent measures must be taken to prevent harm caused by exposure to carcinogens at work (e.g. strict substitution requirements, working in a closed system, recording exposures, strict information and documentation requirements).