

Focus on IFA's work

Edition 6/2016

617.0-IFA:638.1

ZED central exposure database <https://zed.dguv.de>

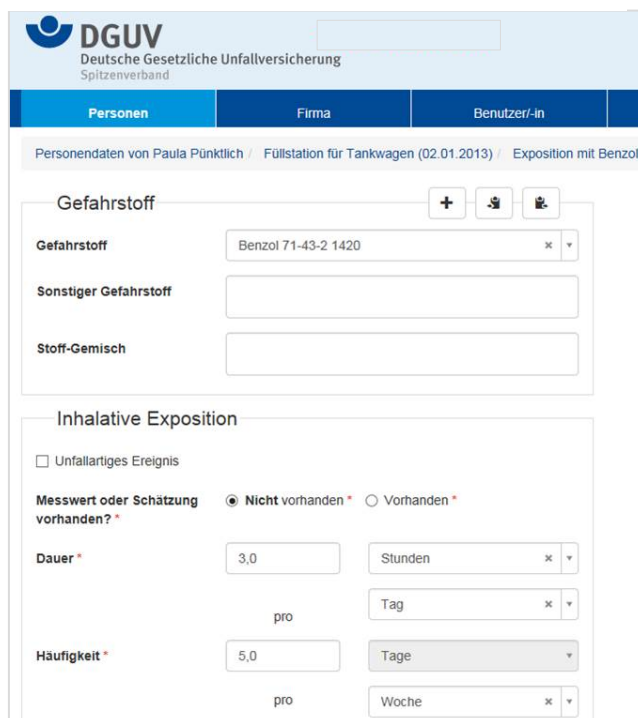
Problem

Carcinogenic substances can be found everywhere – including at work. Exposure to these substances cannot always be avoided and may lead to cancer, generally with long latency times of an average of 40 years. For this reason, since 2005, Section 14 (3) of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance (GefStoffV) has required employers to keep a record of employees who are exposed to a hazard by virtue of contact with carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic substances in Categories 1 and 2 (in accordance with GHS 1A and 1B). This record of exposure must contain information on the nature, level and duration of the exposure, and be retained for 40 years following cessation of it. The employee is to be provided with the relevant part of the record when he or she leaves the company. The purpose of this provision is to assure the long-term retention of evidence for the event of incidence of occupational diseases with long latency times that are typically associated with the substance groups stated.

The legislator has set out in the GefStoffV that with the employees' permission, employers can transfer their duty to furnish and archive the information to the responsible accident insurance institution.

Activities

In cooperation with the German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the raw materials and chemical industry (BG RCI), the IFA has set up an



The screenshot shows the DGUV (Deutsche Gesetzliche Unfallversicherung) interface for recording exposure. The header includes the DGUV logo and navigation tabs for 'Personen', 'Firma', and 'Benutzer/-in'. The main content area is titled 'Personendaten von Paula Püntlich / Füllstation für Tankwagen (02.01.2013) / Exposition mit Benzol'. Under the 'Gefahrstoff' section, 'Benzol 71-43-2 1420' is entered in the 'Gefahrstoff' field. Below this, there are fields for 'Sonstiger Gefahrstoff' and 'Stoff-Gemisch'. The 'Inhalative Exposition' section includes a checkbox for 'Unfallartiges Ereignis', radio buttons for 'Messwert oder Schätzung vorhanden?' (selected as 'Nicht vorhanden'), and input fields for 'Dauer' (3,0) and 'Häufigkeit' (5,0), both with unit dropdown menus (Stunden, Tag, Tage, Woche).

Screenshot of the ZED database

online database in which companies can maintain the exposure record free of charge and thereby transfer their obligation to furnish and archive information to the DGUV. The database is developed further and maintained in the IFA's ZED subunit. This includes continual communication with the database's users by telephone and e-mail. Besides small and medium-sized enterprises, large companies from a number of economic sectors have decided to use the ZED database and in some cases have already begun using it to document exposure.

The observations made in discussion with the companies concerned and a number of bodies are used for continual improvement of the database and for extension of its functionality. Technical implementation (programming) is the task of the BG RCI.

Contacts are on hand at the accident insurance institutions to answer sector-specific queries concerning hazards. Written guides are produced for this purpose in conjunction with the IFA.

Further development of the ZED database is supported by an advisory board, the members of which include the social partners.

Results and Application

The ZED constitutes a database with which the companies can maintain the exposure record required by the regulator, update it continually, and manage it conveniently.

Following registration, companies can divide themselves up in the database into separate units for each of which individuals authorized by the company can view and enter data. The individuals responsible enter the core data for the employees whose tasks are to be documented, and describe their exposure scenarios in accordance with the GefStoffV. User-friendly, dialog-driven recording of the data reduces the work entailed by creation and updating of the record. Besides mandatory fields that must be completed owing to the documentation requirement, a range of further options are available for description of the exposure scenario. Manual input of the data is supplemented by an import interface for larger volumes of data.

Should they wish to do so, companies can also use the ZED database to submit the mandatory reports to the ODIN organizational service for post-exposure examinations and to the GVS (formerly ZA) preventive healthcare body.

The DGUV assumes responsibility for archiving for 40 years when the ZED database is used. The workers concerned receive an excerpt of the data concerning them upon request. An application form for this purpose and comprehensive further information can be found on the ZED's website.

Area of Application

The ZED database is available to all companies for use free of charge.

Additional Information

- Website of the ZED and access to the database: <https://zed.dguv.de> (in German)
- Zöllner, S.; Gabriel, S.; Gross, B. K.; Stamm, R.; Wellhäußer, H.: Dokumentationspflicht beim Umgang mit krebserzeugenden Gefahrstoffen am Arbeitsplatz. Gefahrstoffe – Reinhalt. Luft 75 (2015) No 11/12, pp. 450-456
- Interview: ZED – Die Zentrale Expositionsdatenbank. IPA-Journal (2016) No 1, pp. 22-24
- Stamm, R.; Ermer, A.; Gabriel, S.; Gross, B. K.; Wellhäußer, H.; Zöllner, S.: Ein Jahr Zentrale Expositionsdatenbank (ZED) bei der DGUV. Gefahrstoffe – Reinhalt. Luft 76 (2016) No 6, pp. 227-229

Expert Assistance

IFA, Division 1: Information technology, Risk management

Literature Requests

IFA, Central Division