Template for the interview with key persons in charge of supervising/managing transport container handling in harbours

Time
Place
Interviewed person (name, position, organisation/company)

Work activity
Work activities that involve the opening and entering of containers (custom service, unloading)
Practice of container handling (general process description)
Regulations of container handling (opening and entering containers)
  • International/national legislation that has effect on practice
  • Local rules followed in practice

Exposure
Number of containers handled yearly
  • Estimates for the site/company and for the country
Number of employees exposed to chemicals released from containers (by work activities)
  • Estimates for the site/company and for the country
Chemical exposures released from containers
  • Frequency of containers labelled as being chemically treated (fumigated)
  • Frequency (never, very rare, occasional, frequent, always occurs) and significance (negligible, may cause harm, chronically damages human health, can have serious acute effect) of exposure as assumed by the interviewee
  • Workers` perception about chemical exposure (prevalence of awareness, fear) as seen by the interviewee
  • Chemicals released from containers (documented, measured, assumed) and the frequency of their occurrence
    o Methyl bromide
    o Ethylene dichloride
    o Methylene chloride
    o Phosphine
    o Benzene
    o Toluene
    o Formaldehyde
    o Other
**Health effects**

Symptoms reported by potentially exposed workers (attributed by the occupational health services or by the individuals to chemical exposure from containers)

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Coughing, airway irritation
- Skin irritation
- Weakness, fatigue
- Nausea
- Diarrhoea, abdominal cramps
- Impaired concentration, balance, mental functions
- Other

Diseases diagnosed among potentially exposed workers by occupational or general health services in relation to chemical exposure from containers

- Acute intoxication
- Respiratory disease
- Mental disorder
- Liver, kidney disease
- Cancer
- Other

**Preventive measures**

Preventive measures applied in container handling (frequency, conditions and technical details of application)

- Review of the documentation on the chemical treatment of containers
- Air monitoring
- Aeration
- Exhaust ventilation
- PPE
  - Mask
  - Respirator
  - Protective gloves, clothing, etc.
- Other

The structured interview can be completed in approximately half an hour but it may take longer. The interviewer should take structured notes and may use voice recording for later transcription.