



## Current problems in the European standardization and its influence on the exposure monitoring

János SOLT

Public Foundation for Research on Occupational Safety  
Ötvös János u. 2, H-1021 Budapest

### Activity of the Public Foundation

*Department for Analysis and Information* — main task is collection, procession and distribution of occupational safety information, organizing special courses, publication of periodicals. Acts as the national centre of ILO/CIS

*Department of Risk Analysis* — main task is assessment of technological risks at the workplace, managing safety audits at different workplaces

*Testing Laboratory for Working Environment* — main task is identification and determination of harmful agents in the work environment (exposure monitoring, measurement of noise, lighting, indoor climate, electrostatic charging, electromagnetic fields), assessment of chemical risks at the workplace. The laboratory is accredited by the National Accreditation Board.

The presentation focuses solely to the *exposure monitoring*.

### Current problem

Assessment of the exposure of employees has crucial importance in the risk analysis, above all in the assessment of the chemical risks.

In order to receive comparable exposure data for comparable risk assessment the investigation should be accomplished by generally recognized standards, both on the level of sampling and analysis, and the level of requirements (limit values).

Our laboratory carries out the investigations by national (MSZ), European (EN) and international (ISO) standards, however these do not cover the whole field of its activity, so OSHA and NIOSH standards should also be adopted. The distribution of the standards applied: 4 National, 3 EN, 3 ISO and 20 others (OSHA and NIOSH). The limit values are established in a Ministry Decree.

*Our problem:* in the European standardization less attention is paid to the standardization of exposure monitoring; less consideration is given to the standardization concerning workplace air or, in general, to hazardous substances. ISO is much more involved in standardization of sampling and analysis methods.

There are only two Council Directives concerning the minimum safety and health requirement for the workplace, and only a few EN standards for sampling and analysis, whereas several standards involve product requirements both in "*workplace air*" and "*air quality*" category. No generally recognized limit values are established till now.

### Expectations

Common work — common research, if necessary — devoted to elaboration of European Standards concerning

- exposure monitoring
- sampling strategy, with special attention to the peak exposure
- relation between emission and workplace concentration.

The European networks, e.g. EUROSHNET may take a prominent part in organizing this work.