



CASE STUDY

EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS

BY TOXLEARN4EU
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Problem Based Learning (PBL)

WP5 – Risk assessment, policy and risk communication

Topic: CASE on exposure to chemicals

Exposure to toxic paint

Mr. Bax, age 52, has been working as a house painter for a housing cooperative for over 30 years. For many years he used the traditional solvent-based paint. The smell of paint sometimes made him dizzy and resulted in a headache. However, ventilation in the workplace, as advised by the occupational hygienist, was not always possible. Due to health and environmental concerns, the Working Conditions Act currently prohibits the professional use of traditional solvent-based paints and requires the use of water-based paints.

Yannick works as a risk manager and has been asked by Mr Bax's company to provide a detailed insight into the business processes and risks of the various business units in response to reported health complaints, such as eye and skin irritations. He speaks, among other things, with the company doctor and with various employees. He has already carried out desk research himself and has experienced a case at another similar company, but he also wants to validate his findings regarding the identified risks through consultation with people from the company.

He wants to work thoroughly, because he is aware of the recent discussions about workers of the Dutch army that were working with paint that contained chromium-6. Unfortunately, this is no incident; workers can be exposed to toxic chemicals daily.

News item: Dutch newspaper Volkskrant, 9 January 2019

*Former Defense employees dissatisfied with research:
'The grit dust with chromium-6 was also on our cheese sandwich'*

