

Working together to eliminate occupational cancer

Austrian focus campaign on carcinogens

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Gute Beratung
Faire Kontrolle

Working Together

The Austrian Campaign wasn't a stand alone campaign of the labour inspection but an focused effort of mainly two big public players in workplace safety: AUVA (the Austrian Workers' Compensation Board) and the Austrian Labour Inspection.

Others institutions took part while e.g., holding conferences, publishing articles and informing safety representatives

The European context



Austrian
Campaign on
Carcinogens

**ROADMAP**
ON CARCINOGENS

Carcinogens - a focus of the Austrian Labour Inspection

Two short years – and going on

- Due to the long-term effects other results than the reduced number of workplace related cancer have to be taken into account
- Main task: awareness and knowledge
- Over **600** enterprises monitored by the labour inspection
- Over **100.000** enterprises consulted by AUVA
- The AUVA campaign is extended until 2020
- Silica dust will be in the focus of the labour inspection 2020

Interwoven actions – 1st wave of Labour inspection's campaign

- AUVA and the Labour Inspection matched the design of their campaigns
- Mid 2017 the labour inspection started with the 1st wave of the campaign
 - 1st wave: 300 preselected enterprises of a stratified sample out of a database of ~ 1000 enterprises – mostly welders and metal workers, other carcinogens like arsenic, benzene etc.
 - All of those enterprises had employees who were subject to health surveillance
 - the knowledge that a carcinogen is used was available



Interwoven actions – start of AUVA campaign

- 2018 AUVA started their campaign - new material for employers and employees in certain “big” sectors where carcinogens are widely used
- Official kick off in May 2018 at the biggest Austrian OSH-event



2nd wave of labour inspection's campaign

- Same number of monitored enterprises and same geographical distribution than during 1st wave
- Approach: the 1st wave helped to establish a pattern and routine, now “new” tasks could be tackled
- The used questionnaire was nearly the same - only 1 short page, based on specific §§
- Same experts of the labour inspection including some “new” faces, depending on local management's decision deepening and broadening of the expert base



2nd wave – who was monitored?

Based on information material by AUVA and earlier campaigns:

- Hospitals and veterinarians: cytostatics, formaldehyde and chiralurgical fumes
- Diesel motor exhausts while loading
- Laundries for work wear
- Swimming pool welders (confined spaces outdoor, small enterprises)
- Chimney refurbishers



2019 – already the end?

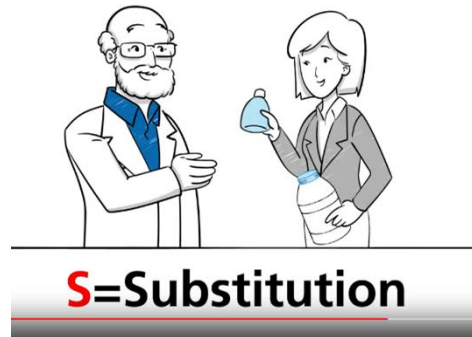
- As the official end of the 2nd wave and AUVAs campaign was fast approaching it was clear: long term targets need long term action
- Raising of awareness is the necessary first step, but only one of many
- “new” carcinogens like silica dust need extra attention
- Design of a silica campaign by the labour inspection for 2020 and the prolongation of the carcinogens campaign by AUVA



This was good to know, but what about the results?

Multimedial approach

AUVA clip on occupational hygiene,
while using carcinogens

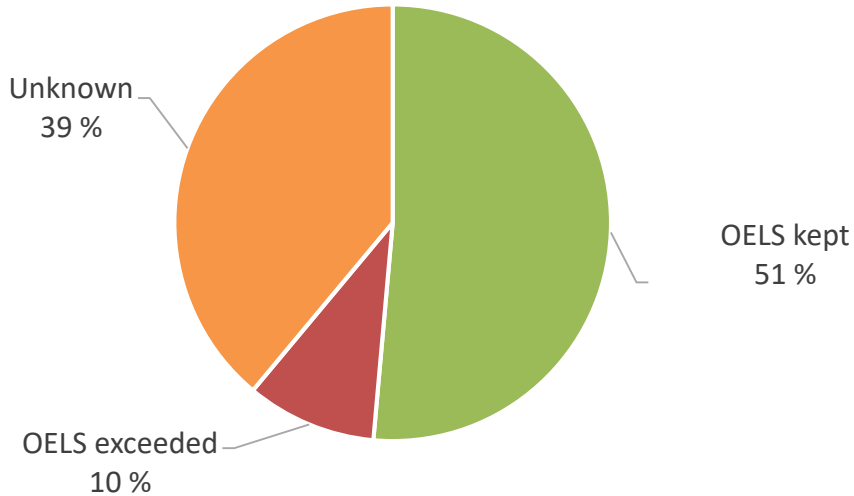


Other newly developed material and media

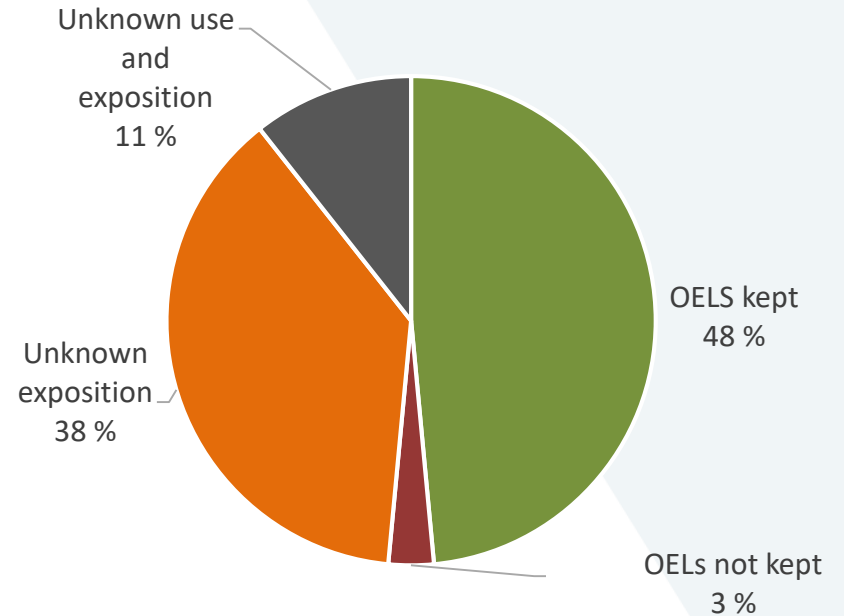
- Labour inspection website:
 - Collection of good practice
 - Checklists for enterprises
 - Register of dangerous substances
- AUVA website: database on dangerous substances users replenish with more and more information
- National kick off with good practice example was in the prime-time news

Knowledge – without it nothing works

Are OELs kept (1st and 2 wave)?

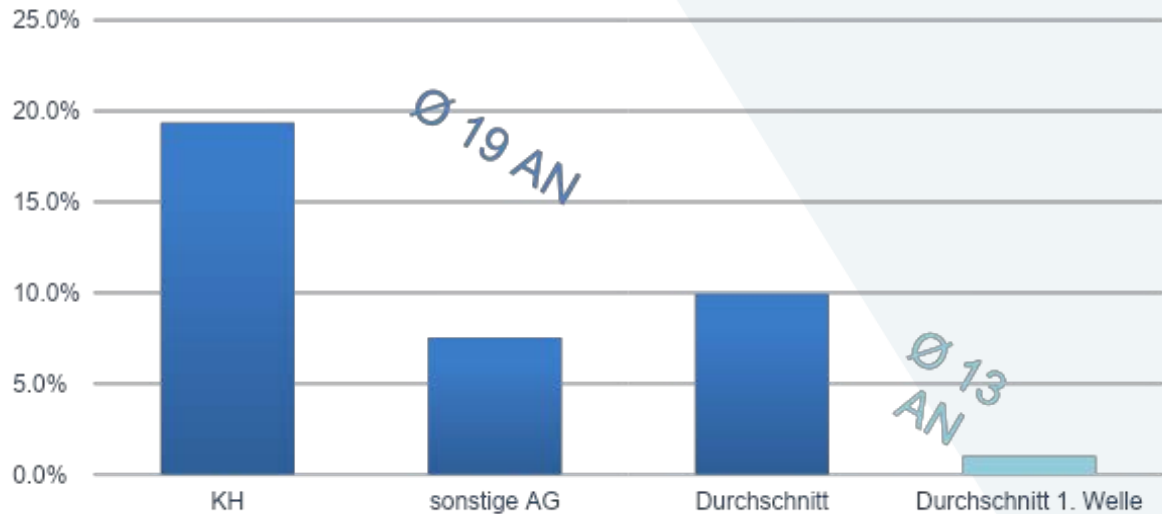


(un)known exposition 2nd wave



Number of exposed employees

Percentage of employers who don't know how many employees are exposed



Other eye openers

- Influence of single persons (in management) is huge – the same enterprise can act different in different departments -Top-Down!
- Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of the deficiencies could be solved in few weeks
- Many measures can be tackled swiftly and with limited investment – but only if people/management is aware of the problem
- Good practice examples are a huge support for enterprises

