

Roadmap on the future of NEPSI (2018 – 2023)

Context:

1. On the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the NEPSI Agreement, the NEPSI signatories signed a joint declaration confirming their desire to continue working together for enhanced workers' health protection.
2. The Commission did in 2016 its own evaluation on the Agreement and the Report concludes that "Overall, it seems that the Agreement and its implementation mechanisms can be deemed suitable to meet its objectives: a) Protection of health of employees; b) Minimising exposure to RCS at the workplace by applying the Good Practices c) Increasing knowledge of potential health effects of RCS and about Good Practices." The Report also proposes some avenues for future work, notably regarding crystalline silica measurement methods.
3. Regulatory developments: the NEPSI Agreement stipulates that in case future EU legislation related to crystalline silica should be proposed, the Parties will meet to evaluate the impact of this proposed legislation on this Agreement.

It will be known normally in April-May 2017 if the revised Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive comes to an acceptable / feasible result for the NEPSI employer sectors.

At the time of the CMD adoption, NEPSI signatories will meet and discuss the future of the NEPSI Agreement in light of the CMD.

It is proposed to prepare this discussion and discuss a possible table of content for a roadmap on the future of NEPSI before the end of the ordinary procedure **for the following reasons:**

- **Credibility and trust towards our partners** (industriALL and the EC): it would answer to a request from industriALL and show the employers' good intentions vis à vis industriALL who has an isolated position towards the other Trade Unions in the debate on the CMD.
- **Basis for EC funding request:** the adoption of the CMD will happen at the time a grant request for European Commission funding must be submitted (the unique call for proposals will be opened between April and June 2017). IndustriALL proposes to prepare a five-year programme/roadmap. If the grant from the European Commission is accepted, the funds will be available end of 2017, so the roadmap would be implemented from 2018 on. NB: it is possible to prepare the grant request and not submit it.
- **Positioning of the NEPSI Agreement** in the context of the new legislation.

We therefore ask the NEPSI organisations to consider and discuss internally the following possible axes for such a roadmap. The idea is to have an exploratory meeting of the NEPSI Council in February 2017 on this subject. This preliminary work will not be finalized/endorsed before the CMD adoption and will be held in the context of the CMD as proposed by the EC. The effective launch of such programme would take place after the CMD adoption.

The roadmap for NEPSI 2018-2023 could be articulated around five axes:

1. Develop a specific action/training programme for the new generations of workers
2. Update the Good Practice Guide and Task Sheets.
3. Development of a detailed standardized Respirable Crystalline Silica Measurement Methodology.
4. Continue the KPIs Reporting, enhance the participation through continuous awareness, promote the Agreement in co-operation with HSE specialists
5. Review the Agreement and the Good Practice Guide to check language coherence once the amended Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive will be adopted.

1. Develop a specific action/training programme for the new generations of workers

The NEPSI signatories will design a special training programme on respirable crystalline silica exposure control for the attention of new workers (i.e. specific induction training on dust/RCS prevention). It is important to be innovative in training and education so as to bring the best information to young workers and show them the real commitment to health and safety in NEPSI industry sectors.

To attract the attention of new workers, communication and training tools should be reinvented using new technologies.

Such a successful health and safety initiative could be used as an argument to attract young competent workers to our industries, where there is sometimes a lack of skilled workers.

2. Check and update the Good Practice Guide and the Task Sheets.

After ten years, it is necessary to review the Good Practice Guide in terms of content and design.

In terms of content, the NEPSI Technical Committee will review the Guide and task sheets and assess whether there is a need for adaptation. They will also check if new technologies, new work situations should be addressed. Several meetings will be needed to update and to draft possible new task sheets.

The Good Practice Guide should be improved in terms of design. It is mainly used in electronic format. The current PDF format is not user friendly. A nice format like an electronic book with a modern design will be developed and an App for smartphones will be developed.

3. Development of a standardized respirable crystalline silica measurement methodology.

The debate on the European Binding Occupational Exposure Limit has highlighted that there is a need to discuss RCS measurement techniques in NEPSI.

The existing annex 2 on Dust Monitoring in the Agreement is too broad.

NEPSI signatories will discuss a common methodology to measure respirable crystalline silica at their workplaces. Such a guidance will include methodology aspects, metrology information, and recommendations for crystalline silica qualitative and quantitative analysis.

It will help those sectors who do not have such a methodology in place to have a reference sampling and analysis method to use for dust and respirable crystalline silica. It could enable them to collect exposure data in a harmonised way.

This methodology should be representative of the actual situations and compatible with current monitoring strategies and European legislation. The first step will be an assessment of the situations in the different Member States.

4. Continue the KPIs Reporting, enhance the participation through continuous awareness, promote the Agreements in co-operation with HSE specialists

It is very important to continue the reporting of KPIs. It enables to see and show the progress in implementation and, as experience shows, such transparency exercise enables concrete actions in the field. The next reporting exercises will be in 2018, 2020, 2022.

The NEPSI Agreement is always open to new signatories. NEPSI signatories will continue to raise awareness on the benefits of the Agreement and make efforts to increase participation from all concerned industry actors. The NEPSI Agreement could also serve as example to encourage other industries to develop their own prevention programmes based on good practices.

Cooperation with HSE specialists like the Senior Labour Inspectorate Committee and the OSHA-EU Bilbao Agency will be strengthened for the benefits of all. NEPSI will be partner to the campaign 2018 of the OSHA EU Agency on Good Practices for the management of dangerous substances. This will imply the organization of a Workshop and a possible participation in the Good Practice Awards

5. Review the Agreement and the Good Practice Guide to check language coherence once the amended Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive will be adopted.

Once the revised Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive will be adopted, NEPSI signatories will check the Agreement and the Good Practice Guide to make sure that the language used and recommendations made are fully compliant with the Directive. It will be formatting adaptations, as the first principle of the NEPSI Agreement is anyway compliance with existing legislation.