



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
Employment and Social Legislation, Social Dialogue  
**Health and Safety**

## **The Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work**

<b>Opinion</b>
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**Opinion on an EU Occupational Exposure Limit value for Formaldehyde under  
Directive 2004/37/EC (CMD).**

**Doc. 1280/16**

**Adopted on 09/09/2016**

### **Formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0, EC No. 200-001-8)**

In the meeting of the Working Party of Chemicals in June 2016, the recently adopted SCOEL Recommendation 125 (June 2016) was discussed. SCOEL recommends the following occupational exposure limit values for formaldehyde:

8 h – TWA: 0.3 ppm (0.369 mg/m<sup>3</sup>)

15 min – STEL: 0.6 ppm (0.738 mg/m<sup>3</sup>)

The three interests groups agreed on the need for an EU OEL for formaldehyde set at the levels recommended by SCOEL.

The ACSH strongly recommends the Commission to adopt as soon as possible binding occupational exposure limit values for this substance under Directive 2004/37/EC.

### **Specific comments from the Employers Interest Group**

At present in some companies and for specific tasks, complying with 0.3 ppm (as 8h OEL) for formaldehyde seems technically difficult. Achieving the proposed TWA OEL would therefore require new equipment and/or organisational measures, which would entail additional investment and costs for these companies. This is particularly accurate for companies proceeding to gluing and varnishing using mixtures with formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing resins.