

Health Council of the Netherlands

Vinyl chloride monomer

Health-based calculated occupational cancer risk values



Executive summary

At request of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, the Dutch Expert Committee on Occupational Safety (DECOS), a committee of the Health Council of the Netherlands, derives so-called health-based calculated – occupational cancer risk values (HBC-OCRVs) associated with excess mortality levels of 4 per 1,000 and 4 per 100,000 as a result of working life exposure to substances. It concerns carcinogenic substances which are classified by the Health Council or the European Union in category 1A or 1B, and which are considered stochastic genotoxic carcinogens. For the estimation, the committee uses the *Guideline for the calculation of occupational cancer risk values* by the Health Council.² In this report the Committee presents such estimates for vinyl chloride monomer (VCM). VCM is used in the production of polyvinylchloride (plastic).

The Committee estimated that the concentration of VCM in the air, which corresponds to an excess cancer risk of

- 4 per 1,000 (4×10^{-3}), for 40 years of occupational exposure, equals to 65.5 mg/m³
 - 4 per 100,000 (4×10^{-5}), for 40 years of occupational exposure, equals to 0.65 mg/m³.
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Advisory Reports

The Health Council's task is to advise ministers and parliament on issues in the field of public health. Most of the advisory opinions that the Council produces every year are prepared at the request of one of the ministers.

In addition, the Health Council issues unsolicited advice that has an 'alerting' function. In some cases, such as an alerting report leads to a minister requesting further advice on the subject.

Areas of activity



Optimum healthcare
What is the optimum result of cure and care in view of the risks and opportunities?



Prevention
Which forms of prevention can help realise significant health benefits?



Healthy nutrition
Which foods promote good health and which carry certain health risks?



Environmental health
Which environmental influences could have a positive or negative effect on health?



Healthy working conditions
How can employees be protected against working conditions that could harm their health?



Innovation and the knowledge infrastructure
Before we can harvest knowledge in the field of healthcare, we first need to ensure that the right seeds are sown.

