



**IMHA**

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## **7<sup>th</sup> International Workshop**

**How to handle imported containers safely**  
**Berlin, May, 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2014**

# **Diagnosis and questionnaire: problems and challenges**

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Source: www.EOMSociety.org

Age	Sex	Exposition			Main Complaints	Clinical Findings	Other Findings	Diagnosis
		Substance	Activity	Period				
38	M	1,2-Dichloroethane	Unloading a Container	4 - 5 hours	Headache, vertigo, nausea, dyspnoea, pruritus, loss of strength in left hand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U1, U3, U4: normal</li> <li>• U2: anomic aphasia, nausea while standing, ataxic gait, otherwise normal</li> <li>• N1, N2, N3: normal</li> <li>• N4: more mistakes with left hand</li> <li>• N8: far below average</li> <li>• N9, N11, N12, N18: below average</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T1: pulmonary diffusion disorder</li> <li>• T2: bronchial hyperresponsiveness</li> <li>• T4: mild partial pulmonary insufficiency at rest</li> <li>• T5: reduced physical fitness due to reduced forced expiratory volume</li> <li>• T6: normal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intoxication with fumigants</li> <li>• Pulmonary obstruction and bronchial hyperresponsiveness (RADS)</li> <li>• Persistent neurological deficiencies</li> </ul>
34	M	1,2-Dichloroethane	Unloading a Container	Approx. 6 + 2 hours	Headache, vertigo, nausea, dyspnoea, visual disturbances, metallic taste, chest pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U1 - U4: normal</li> <li>• N1 - N18: deficits in tests FEDA (N7) und TAP (subtest GoNogo), high scores in tests TMT-B and TKS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T1: normal but increasing lung capacities after four weeks</li> <li>• T2: bronchial hyperresponsiveness</li> <li>• T4: partial pulmonary insufficiency at rest, improvement in ergometry</li> <li>• T5: reduced forced expiratory volume</li> <li>• T6: normal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intoxication with fumigants</li> <li>• Pulmonary obstruction and bronchial hyperresponsiveness (RADS)</li> </ul>
39	M	1,2-Dichloroethane	Unloading a Container	Approx. 4 + 2 hours	Headache, vertigo, nausea, dyspnoea, burning skin sensation, metallic taste, furred tongue, attacks of sweating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U1 - U4: normal</li> <li>• N1 - N4: normal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T1, T2, T4, T6: normal</li> <li>• T5: unfit but normal</li> </ul>	Intoxication with fumigants



## Fum-Ex 2

[www.EOMSociety.org](http://www.EOMSociety.org)

# FUMIGANT EXPOSURE QUESTIONNAIRE

[www.PLoSOne.org](http://www.PLoSOne.org)

Service réalisant l'étude (INSTITUTION) \_\_\_\_\_

Personne réalisant le questionnaire \_\_\_\_\_

DATE    / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

nom ou n° \_\_\_\_\_

DATE de Naissance    / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MOis/jour/année)      AGE    \_\_\_\_ ans

SEXE    F \_\_\_\_    M \_\_\_\_

Taille (cm) \_\_\_\_\_

Poids (kg) \_\_\_\_\_

Fumeur actif: oui \_\_\_\_\_    NON \_\_\_\_    Jamais fumé \_\_\_\_\_

EX-FUMEUR: Oui \_\_\_\_    NON \_\_\_\_

DATE FIN:    / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)

TABAGISME EN PAQUET-ANNEES /      PACK-YEARS

HISTOIRE  
x Raum  
PROFESSIONNELLE

- I. DURATION OF EXPOSURE IN TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ (MONTHS)
- II. HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH THE AGENTS MENTIONED ABOVE PER WEEK  
\_\_\_\_\_ HOURS
- III. WHEN WAS THE LAST EXPOSURE? \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MONTH/DAY/YEAR)
- IV. DURATION OF LAST EXPOSURE \_\_\_\_ (DAYS) \_\_\_\_ (HOURS) \_\_\_\_ (MINUTES)

6. IF NO (QUESTION # 3): DID YOU WORK WITH THESE AGENTS IN THE PAST?

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

WHICH AGENT? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT WAS YOUR JOB DESCRIPTION AT THAT TIME? \_\_\_\_\_

EXPOSURE STARTED (DATE) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MONTH/YEAR)

EXPOSURE ENDED (DATE) \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (MONTH/YEAR)

7. WHILE WORKING DID YOU USE ANY PROTECTION EQUIPMENT? YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_

IF YES: WHICH? \_\_\_\_\_

8. SYMPTOMS

HOW MANY TIMES DID THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS OCCUR DURING OR AFTER WORK IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS?

SYMPTOMS/INCIDENCE	ALMOST ALWAYS	OFTEN	SPORADIC	ALMOST NEVER	NEVER	WHEN DID IT OCCURE FOR THE FIRST TIME? (M/D/Y)
HEADACHE	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
DIZZINESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
AIRWAYS IRRITATION, COUGH	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
MUCOSA IRRITATIONS (EYE ITCHING, RHINITIS,STOMATITIS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
SKIN IRRITATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
NAUSEA	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
DIZZINESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
MUSCLE CRAMPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
CONCENTRATION DISORDERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
DYSGUSIA Distortion sense of taste	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
NUMBNESS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL CRAMPS	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				
WEAKNESS, FATIGUE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X. Baum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____
SEIZURES	<input type="checkbox"/>	____ / ____ / ____				

# Hazard Surveillance: Residual Chemicals in Shipping Containers

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/about/publications/pages/hazard-surveillance-residual-chemicals-in-shipping-containers>

December 2012

*The views in this report should not be taken to represent the views of **Safe Work Australia** unless otherwise expressly stated.*



Zhong and  
Ransson 1996

Kristensen et  
al. 1996

Dich et al. 1998

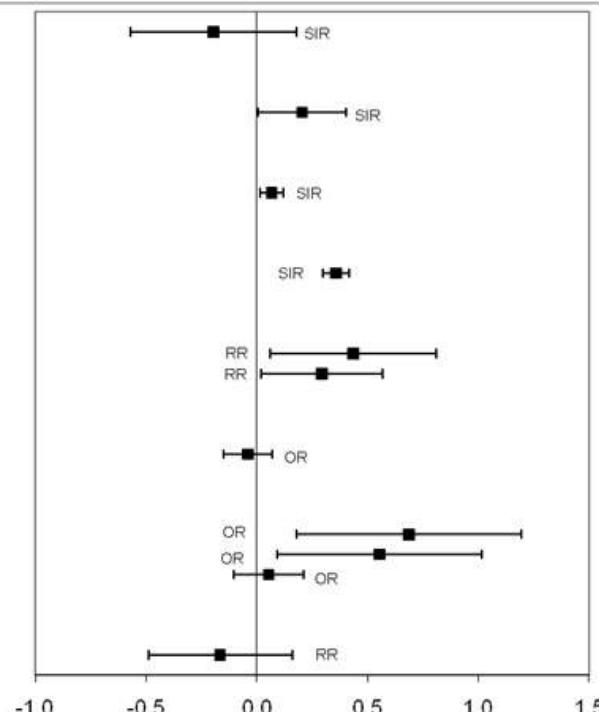
Fleming et al.  
1999

Parker et al.  
1999

Mills and  
Kwong. 2001

Alavanja et al.  
2003

Zeegers et al.  
2004



## Prostate cancer risk after exposure to methyl bromide

Forest plot of observed standardized mean difference and 95% confidence interval for the relative risks of prostate cancer reported by cohort studies

Checkoway et al.  
1987

Forastiere et al.  
1993

Van der Gulden et  
al. 1995

Ewings and Bowie  
1996

Aronson et al. 1996

Krstev et al. 1998

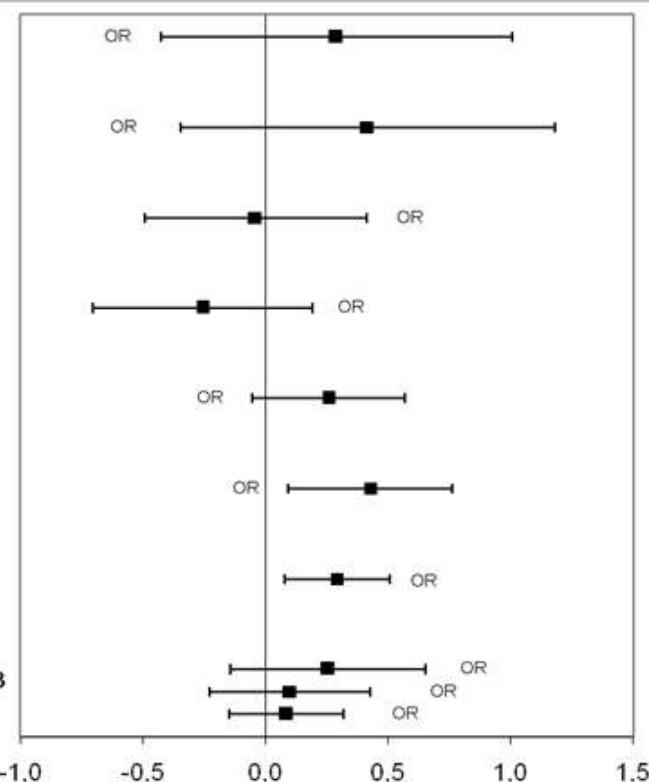
Settimi et al. 2001

Mills and Yang 2003

The preponderance of evidence revealed in systematic review indicated a positive association between development of prostate cancer and exposure to methyl bromide

(Budnik et al., Environmental Health, 2012)

X. Baur



## Diagnostic set-up in case of suspected intoxication

- ***Case history, questionnaire***
  - headache, dizziness, forgetfulness, concentration disorders, feeling impatient or depressed, sleepiness, emotional problems, shortness of breath, diarrhea, change of sense or taste, loss of sexual interest etc.

Fum-Ex2 Questionnaire is accessible online at: [www.EOMsociety.org](http://www.EOMsociety.org)
- ***Physical and neurological examination***
- ***Lung function testing***
  - spirometry, gas exchange measurement, methacholine challenge test, spiroergometry
- ***Clinical chemistry/ Blood tests:***
  - liver enzymes, muscle enzymes
  - intoxication marker
  - bromide and fluoride in serum and urine
- ***Human Biomonitoring***
  - residual fumigants in blood and urine (methyl bromide, ethylene oxide, ethylene dichloride, chloropicrin, methylene chloride co-exposure to solvents like benzene, toluene, xylene etc.; headspace tubes –Gas-Chromatography-Mass-spectrometry analyses, extra tubes required)
  - hemoglobin adducts in blood (MEV; HEV)
- ***Sniffsticks (olfactory test)***
- ***Colour vision test***
- ***Comprehensive neurological and neuropsychological tests, e.g.***
  - physical performance (grooved pegboard and finger tapping test)
  - test of crystallized and fluid intelligence
  - information processing speed
  - selective attention/concentration tests, divided attention
  - sustained attention/vigilance
  - learning/memory tests
  - decision making and pre-morbid verbal intelligence
  - logical thinking and abstraction

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Baur et al., (2010-2013)

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