



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

**Opinion**

**Communication of the residual risks associated with the binding  
OELs of carcinogens**

Adopted on 10/12/2025

The Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work (ACSH)

**ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING OPINION:**

**1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

In 2022, the ACSH adopted an Opinion on limit value setting for non-threshold carcinogens, a Risk-Based Approach (Doc. 005-22). As part of the risk-based approach discussions, the ACSH also discussed within that opinion about the residual risk, which is defined as the excess lifetime risk of cancer corresponding to a given Binding Occupational Limit Value (BOELV). In its Opinion the ACSH agreed that the residual risk associated with the OEL needs to be communicated transparently, and that further work is necessary as regards how best to communicate this information.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

In order to appropriately communicate the residual risks the ACSH concluded that a document listing the residual risks associated with the BOELVs under the Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic substances at Work (CMRD; 2004/37/EC) and the Asbestos at Work Directive (2009/148/EC) is necessary.

The Working Party on Chemicals (WPC) of the ACSH set up a drafting subgroup to prepare an explanatory document together with a list of residual risks. The resulting document "*Residual risks associated with Binding Occupational Exposure Limit Values of carcinogens under the CMRD (2004/37/EC) and the Asbestos at Work Directive (2009/148/EC)*" was discussed in three meetings of the drafting subgroup and within the WPC meetings of 4-5 March, 17-18 June and 14-15 October 2025.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The ACSH agreed that the list of residual risks associated with the existing binding OELs of carcinogens under the CMRD and Asbestos at Work directive as well as a descriptive text should be published on the website of EU-OSHA.

The ACSH advises that in the future amendments of the CMRD the Commission introduces to the amending directives a recital referring to the above-mentioned EU-OSHA website.

The list is intended to be regularly updated by including a permanent link from the EU-OSHA website to CIRCABC, where the document listing the residual risks will be uploaded. Updates shall take place whenever a new directive setting new limit values for carcinogenic substances or updating existing limit values comes into force. The ACSH will be in charge of updating the list.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

The ACSH strongly recommends the Commission to request EU-OSHA to publish the link leading to the attached document on residual risks on its web page and encourages its further dissemination by the interest groups (national authorities, workers and employers).