

EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

FOREST INDUSTRY HEALTH RESEARCH PROGRAM

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The Forest Industry Health Research Program (FIHRP) has prepared a document that describes six steps in the design an effective exposure assessment strategy. The document titled **"GUIDELINES FOR OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE ASSESSMENTS"** is now available. To request a copy, phone **Agi Lee** at the Pulp and Paper Forum at (604) 777-1533, send a fax to (604) 777-1567 or email alee@paperforum.com. Non-members of the Forum may be charged for the reports.

1. **Basic Characterization** collects information on health effects, tasks and jobs. This step examines grouping workers together based on similar patterns of exposure.
2. **Qualitative Risk Assessment** establishes a ranking of worker exposure groups based on risks of health problems.
3. **Monitoring** covers sampling objectives, number and duration of samples.
4. **Interpretation** examines ways to analyze samples.
5. **Reporting** discusses record keeping.
6. **Reevaluation** covers when to repeat the exposure measurements.

The exposure assessment strategy was developed by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) to accomplish at least four goals:

- To evaluate potential health risks faced by workers, to differentiate between acceptable and unacceptable exposures, and to control unacceptable exposures.
- To ensure and demonstrate compliance with exposure limits.
- To establish and document an historical record of exposure levels for workers and to communicate exposure monitoring results to each worker.
- To accomplish exposure assessments with efficient and effective allocation of time and resources.