IN THE LOOP

Your Safety Matters

ESCO SCIENTIFIC

According to the estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), environmental toxic exposure are responsible for between 7% and 19% of human cancers.

There are certain chemicals that can increase the risk of a developing cancer which may be present in the samples or working environment — called occupational carcinogens. If these chemicals are present in the lab, they must carry hazard warnings and should be strictly controlled to keep laboratory workers' exposure within safety limits.

BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING POTENTIAL OCCUPATIONAL CARCINOGENS:

- Asbestos
- Benzidine and its salts
- Bis chloromethyl ether (BCME)
- Chromium and chromium compounds
- Coal tars, coal tar pitches or soot
- Beta napthylamine
- Vinyl chloride
- Benzene or its toxic homogolues
- Toxic nitro- and amino-derivatives of benzene or its homologues
- Ionizing radiations
- Tar, pitch, bitumen, mineral oil, anthracene, or the compounds
- Compounds of nickel
- Wood dust

HOW CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

Wear **personal protective equipment** always! Masks can also be worn when dealing with noxious chemicals.

When dealing with chemicals inside the laboratory, make sure to work inside a **fume hood** to reduce the risk of chemical exposure. If handling household chemicals, make sure to read and follow the instructions carefully and handle it in a well-ventilated area.

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