

## **POF024: General platform presentation**

### **PIMEX: an innovative tool for risk communication**

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#### **Abstract**

To motivate people to change their behaviour in a safe direction while working with chemicals, awareness of the risks and knowledge of safe methods is needed. In the Netherlands visualisation methods as PIMEX are widely used to achieve this.

#### **Methods:**

PIMEX stands for Picture Mix Exposure. PIMEX combines video recordings of a person at work with an image of the real time exposure to a certain substance. By watching recorded material, the personnel and management involved developed a better understanding of the relation between the situation at the workplace and the actual exposure. With this method not only chemical substances can be visualized, but also noise and heat stress. The PIMEX method was developed in Sweden.

#### **Results:**

There are more than 100 professional videos made with PIMEX for all different industries/branches visualizing the exposure to chemical compounds. Most of them are all free available.

There is a variability of situations where PIMEX has been used:

- Training workers to use PPE and control measures in the right way;
- To enlarge the knowledge of risks and to motivate workers/management to use safe working procedures or to take measures;
- Workplace surveys (hazard identification);
- Visualization of a good practice method

In all situations proper risk communication is necessary and improving this is reached with PIMEX.

#### **Discussion**

PIMEX has been used widely. In practice it was evaluated as a strong tool for risk communication. The effects of PIMEX interventions still need to be validated. Therefore a study to evaluate improved motivation for work environment improvements needs to be done. Furthermore refinement of the PIMEX instrument and the software is an ongoing process.