



**ENPROTEX**  
Association

# Occupational hygiene

Panel discussion

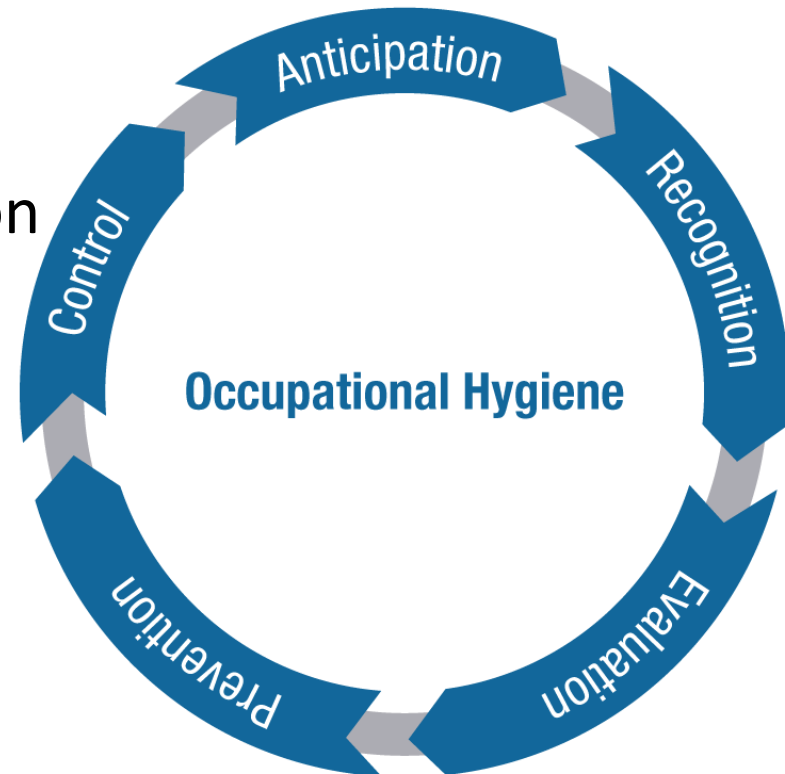
Enprotex conference

December 9, Brussels

# Occupational hygiene

- **Occupational (or "industrial" in the U.S.) hygiene (IH)** is the anticipation, recognition, evaluation, control and prevention of hazards from work that may result in injury, illness, or affect the well being of workers. These hazards or stressors are typically divided into the categories biological, chemical, physical, ergonomic and psychosocial.

(source: Wikipedia)



# Occupational Hygiene and PPE



- Prevention of hazards by work wear
  - Several levels of protection against threats from the work environment
- Prevention vs comfort
  - Protection has often negative effect on comfort
- What if the protection itself becomes a source of hazard?



# Introduction of the expert panel



- Dag Skaseth
- John Cairns
- Col. Christian Van De Voorde
- Maurice Kemmeren
- Karin Klein Hesselink

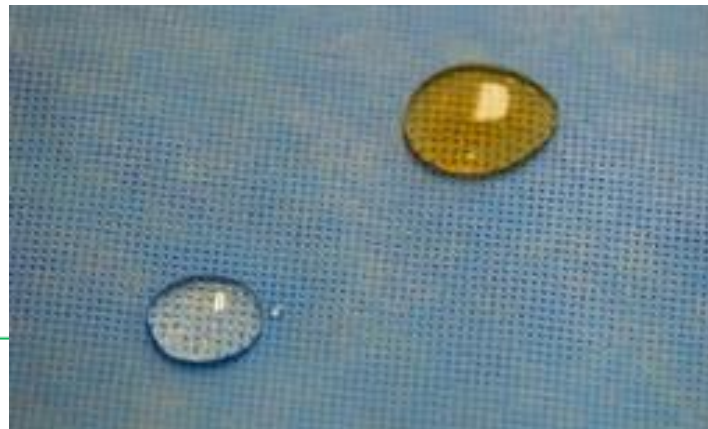
# Panel discussion

- Contamination of the work wear?
  - How often does it occur?
  - How is it recognized?
  - To what extent does cleaning reduce the (exposure to) contamination?



# What can be done to reduce the hazard by PPE-producers?

- What are the relevant developments in PPE
  - Self cleaning?
  - Anti-microbial (nano)finishes?
  - Impact of the fabrics and fabric structure?
  - Impact of design?
  - Monitoring / tracers (after use and total lifetime)?



# What can be done to reduce the hazard by policies and protocols?

- What procedures are needed / prescribed as PPE becomes contaminated?
- How can contamination be recognized by the user of the PPE?
- Do we need a standard protocol for “Decontamination” (on the scene)?



# What are the costs of reducing hazards?

- What are the extra costs of improved occupational hygiene?
- And can we afford the extra costs?
- Need for strategic partnerships between user, manufacturer and “decontaminator”?

