EEI/EPRI Collaborative Industrial Hygiene Database

Beginning May 1, EEI and EPRI members may now enter and upload industrial hygiene personal sampling data for crystalline silica and beryllium to the new EEI/EPRI Collaborative Industrial Hygiene Database. In 2018, EEI and EPRI combined efforts to develop this new database, involving a joint EEI/EPRI member advisory committee. The development and maintenance of this database is jointly supported by both EEI and EPRI. Joint database development and maintenance eliminates redundancy in members' data recording and reduces total resources needed to develop and maintain one database versus two separate databases.

Need for This Database

This database addresses at least two important needs for the electric utility industry. First, the resulting data will provide insights to the electric utility industry on worker exposures to inform risk assessment and exposure control measures. Second, the database can inform utilities and external stakeholders about the actual exposures to electric utility workers across the industry.

Moreover, this database, as envisioned, will contain data from across the industry—large to small, urban to rural, and all types of electric generation and power delivery organizations. The volunteer members of the Project Advisory Committee came from both EEI and EPRI membership representing investor-owned, public power, and rural electric cooperative electric utility organizations.

Database Administration

In-Tec, a contractor for EEI, provides the database platform including the portal for data entry, while EPRI's contractor, Exponent, performs data quality review. Working together during development with a joint member project team, members can be assured that data entered into the database met a uniform standard.

Agents Currently in Database

Although the database is currently established for and accepting data on crystalline silica and beryllium, it is the intent to continuously expand acceptance of data representing additional agents. The joint Project Advisory Committee will be involved in continual monitoring of the database function and in expanding the database to include new agents in the future.

Data Entry and Download

Contributors may enter personal sampling data in two ways: entering individual sampling parameters and values online or uploading spreadsheet-based data sets. The latter approach is especially useful for entering legacy data.

If contributors desire to submit data through spreadsheets, the process is as follows:
1. Contributors download the template/spreadsheet from the database site.
2. Contributors enter their sampling data into the spreadsheet.
3. Contributors upload their spreadsheet to the database site.
4. Exponent conducts the data quality reviews, contacts contributors if there are questions about data, and then approves the data records.
5. Contributors may download their own data and can sort and filter Industry records. Records of other contributors will be masked.
6. Users can export record spreadsheets.

Only approved industry sampling records that meet data quality assurance protocols will appear in the archive. The records may be searched, sorted, and filtered as needed by the user. Records may then be exported as spreadsheet reports.

The sources of all data submitted are confidential. Only In-Tec and Exponent will have visibility to the data sources. Contributors to the database will be able to download data from the database (without companies' attribution), in addition to the entirety of their own data. EPRI researchers and EEI staff will also have access to the masked data.

As noted, the data entered into this database will be reviewed by Exponent prior to incorporation into the database. Although Exponent will make its best effort to remove potentially identifying information and apply quality control measures using a set of agreed-upon parameters before approving the data, the sole responsibility for the content of the data is with the person and/or entity entering the information into this application.

Contacts for Questions and Beginning Data Entry

Members having any questions about the database or who wish to become involved with the joint project advisory committee may contact Eric Bauman, EPRI, at 410.336.3918, ebauman@epri.com or Carren Spencer, EEI, at 202.508.5166, cspencer@eei.org. A brief slide deck is available to provide prospective contributors with more details on data entry requirements, formats, and reporting.

The following links and contact information can be used by EEI and EPRI members to begin using the database:

- For company code to register, contact Keith Williams, In-Tec, at 570.342.8464, kwilliams@intecweb.com.
- Database registration and login: https://app.esafetyline.net/iharchive [app.esafetyline.net]
- Questions about the data quality review process can be directed to Megan Leonhard, Exponent, at 425.324.6178, mleonhard@exponent.com.

For More Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).