

Health & Safety in the 21 century

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Health & Bitumen

During the past two decades the bitumen and asphalt industry devoted significant effort to carefully consider health and safety aspects of working with hot bitumen. In particular, scientific studies evaluated the hazards, the risks and the potential health impacts of working with hot bitumen. Key studies and events are reviewed.

The efforts culminated in October 2011 when IARC assessed bitumen and bitumen emissions in the Monograph 103 forming truly a major milestone for the industry. Now that the initial summary of the IARC assessment has been published – what are the key health and safety issues related to working with bitumen? What are the hazards, what are the risks and how does the industry deal with them in the light of the IARC assessment?

The answers are clearer. Nevertheless, some questions remain. One thing is certain: health and safety will be an essential part of the future agenda of bitumen and asphalt industry. In this light, activities and initiatives of the European bitumen manufacturers are presented (e.g. REACH dossiers, fume exposure method, recommendations on safe loading and handling, H₂S etc)



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He started his bitumen career in 1990 when he joined Shell Research in Amsterdam. Since then he has held international roles in Marketing, Sales & Operations and Technical and always related to the bitumen business.

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