Diisocyanates, in conjunction with polyols, constitute the building blocks of polyurethane. Polyurethane production entails the manufacture of vast quantities, reaching millions of tons annually, utilised in a wide array of applications including both consumer and industrial sectors. The value chain of polyurethanes exhibits remarkable diversity, spanning automotive applications, construction, household appliances, footwear, adhesives, sealants, and more. However, due to their inherent properties as skin- and respiratory sensitizers, Germany proposes a European regulation of Manufacture and use of Diisoscyanates by an REACH restriction (August 2020) by introducing minimum training requirements for workers handling diisocyanates and mixtures containing diisocyanates. The utilization of diisocyanates has faced a restriction imposed by the European Commission.

This regulatory constraint represents a distinctive example of collaborative efforts between governing bodies, researchers and industry stakeholders. Notably, a collaborative partnership involving regulatory authorities and industry associations has established requirements for diisocyanate suppliers to provide training materials and trainings in the official languages of the Member States. ISOPA/ALIPA was working together with other industry-associations on an online training material platform, and making the training materials available in over 20 languages. Moreover, the regulatory restriction is accompanied by an ongoing market study, complemented by a prospective 5-year cohort study. During this longterm surveillance has the aim of evaluating the restriction. The occupational exposure to these substances is monitored to examine the incidence of respiratory ailments among companies using diisocyanates.

The combination of the availability of training materials in more than 20 languages and easy accessibility through digital training are hereby important features. They grant a good opportunity to directly benefit from regulatory efforts made in the European Union and to simplify a possible implementation in further countries.

**Agenda:**

3 min Welcome and introduction, Dr. Gudrun Walendzik (BAuA)

12 min 1. Lecture, 'Regulation on the restriction of diisocyanates', Dr. Holger Lars Deubner (BAuA)

12 min 2. Lecture, 'Employees’ health and safety when working with diisocyanates', Dr. Heiko Käfferlein (IPA)

3 min Discussion

12 min 3. Lecture, 'The ISOPA/ALIPA training platform on the safe use of diisocyanates', Brieuc Lits (ISOPA)

3 min Discussion