

European Aviation Group for Occupational Safety and Health
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EAGOSH Recommendation No: 15

Solar ultraviolet radiation on aprons and other airport areas

Scope / Introduction

Outdoor workers are exposed to sunlight and therefore to ultraviolet radiation (UV radiation) which can cause skin cancer. Up to now, reliable data about the level of UV radiation exposure are missing. In the research project "skin cancer induced by UV radiation", initialized and realized by the German social accident insurance, the actual exposure should be identified under realistic working conditions. The results show, that apron workers are exposed to solar UV radiation, too.

Skin cancer caused by solar UV radiation is one of the future challenges for the prevention of occupational diseases and work-related health hazards.

The important **aspects for the risk assessment** to minimize or reduce the exposure to solar UV radiation are:

- Period of stay of the employees in the sun (outdoors)
- during summertime especially between 11 am and 3 pm high exposure
- reduction of UV exposure by shade and clouds, but no cancellation
- highest UV exposure during spring and summer
- impact of latitude and altitude on extent of UV exposure (UV exposure increases in the vicinity of the equator.)
- individual cases: increase of UV exposure by reflexions, e. g. snow, sheets of metal

The **European Aviation Group for Occupational Safety and Health (EAGOSH)** recommends to all organizations at airports depending on their risk assessments and the national regulations to take these prevention measurements (examples) into account:

1. Technical:

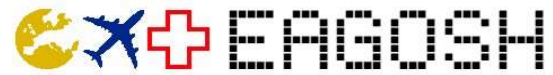
- Technical protective measures against direct solar radiation are almost impossible on the apron

2. Organisational:

- inform employees about the risks of solar radiation and about prevention measurements
- if possible, work at shady areas
- rest in shade or air-conditioned rooms
- mind of work change between employees, e. g. shift work
- provide **personal protective equipment**, beverages (drinking water) and sunscreen sufficiently

3. Personal

- wear clothing, which covers the body (trousers, jackets, long-sleeved shirt), e. g. sun protective clothing according to UV Standard 801
- wear a headpiece with a large brim or a neck guard. If necessary, wear a safety helmet with a neck guard.
- wear sunglasses according to working conditions



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- use regularly sunscreen for body parts, which can't be covered by clothes, e. g. face, hands. Sunscreen has a sun protection factor (SPF) of 50 and is proofed against sweat
- use the offer of an occupational health check-up for skin screening every year

For more information, see the German DGUV Information 203-085 "Working under the sun"