CEMAS
User Trial

Daan Huizer

Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences (IRAS) Utrecht University

INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE
Edinburgh, EH14 4AP, UK

www.iom-world.org

INSTITUTE OF RISK ASSESSMENT SCIENCES
IRAS, P.O. Box 80.176,
NL-3508 TD Utrecht.
www.iras.uu.nl/index

Aim

Test and evaluate CEMAS in practice

➢ how does CEMAS function in practice?

➢ does CEMAS offer surplus value according to user?

➢ what adjustments and updates have to be made to improve CEMAS?

Outlines

Actual user trial:

- *2 groups of OH/IH professionals (n=12)*
- *2 countries, NL & UK*
- *Standardized, detailed information*

Additionally, 66 copies were distributed to:

- *International 'colleagues' (n=11)*
- *Chemical Industry and OH representatives (through CEFIC LRI project officer) (n=19)*
- *Interested persons at REACH workshop organized by BOHS, December 2005 (n=36)*

to obtain more general information

User trial set up (may-nov 2005)

- Recruitment of volunteers
  - NL: through NVvA mailing list
  - UK: through BOHS register and other OH contacts
- Initial working visits
  - interview, installation, instruction, and demo of CEMAS
- Actual trial period
  - exploration/application of CEMAS, 6-10 weeks
- Re-visits and recording of user data

Criteria

- Installation of the software
- General structure and concept
- Input of user data
- Exposure survey management
- E-risk
- Output: reporting and analysis

Installation of the software

- 9 out of 12 installations without problems

- Built-in MS Access runtime module overcomes most Access related problems

- Local security settings can cause difficulties, consult therefore system administrator

User comments
general structure and concept

- Combination of all types of data (premises, exposure, risk assessment) in single piece of software is much appreciated

- Link of exposure data seen as relevant

- Build up of long term exposure data bank with related exposure and contextual data useful

User comments
general structure and concept

- At first glance CEMAS looks complex, although understandable after working with it

- Maneuvering found to be disorderly sometimes

- Initially time consuming

- Lack of knowledge in very small companies

User comments
data input by user

- "…Possibilities to add user data nearly infinite…"
- Note that many data fields are optional
- 'Jobs & SOCs' for Dutch users unknown
- Confidentiality issue concerning data sharing
- Some terminology confusing for (Dutch) user.

User comments
exposure survey management

- Data coverage good
- Link across time is useful but needs more enhancement
- Worker event tracking good but time consuming
- Structure of data set not always recognizable for some users

User comments
E-risk

- Combination of data collection and risk assessment appreciated
- For Dutch situation COSHH essentials not very familiar. In UK COSHH is better recognized and generally accepted
- Endorsed by regulatory authority?
- Saving and re-adjusting of ERA easy

User comments
Output: reporting and analysis

- Still a bit limited

- Import /export functions need to be improved

- Communication to downstream users?

- Calculation of overexposure

Next steps and updates

- Improve and simplify for more user-focused interface:
  - *More dropdown menus for categorical data*
  - *Navigation more layered & intuitive (hide complexity of model)*
  - *Flag Mandatory and Optional data entries*

- REACH and ES facilities

- Import/export & data interchange (up and down stream)

- Additional reporting and summary stats

- Advancing EDB standards, and xml possibilities

- Security features

- More advanced Help, training and example data & scenarios

- Implementation possibilities
  - *Back end to Client Server database*
  - *.net C/S or Web version of database*
  - *Better installation etc*
  - *Exploit best of new technology*

Conclusion

- CEMAS' first 'touch' with practice positive

- Many reactions from users good evaluation before further development of CEMAS

- User feedback proofs the need for concept like CEMAS