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*“The NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy: Classifying chemical carcinogens and establishing a target risk level”*

**Abstract:**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has a long history of identifying chemical carcinogens and recommending approaches to control them. In 2017, NIOSH published the *NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy*, which governs how NIOSH classifies chemicals as occupational carcinogens, sets risk management limits for workers exposed to carcinogens, and incorporates information on the analytical limit of quantification (LOQ) or the reliable quantitation limit (RQL) of the analytical method. One significant change from previous NIOSH policy is the establishment of 1 excess case of cancer in 10,000 workers exposed for a working lifetime to guide the establishment of the NIOSH risk management limits for carcinogens. This presentation will describe the development of the *NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy* and focus on the rationale and decision process behind the target risk level. The policy is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2017-100/pdf/2017-100.pdf>

**Bio:**

Dr. Christine Whittaker received her B.S. in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and her Ph.D. in Environmental Toxicology from the University of California Irvine. From 1990 to 1997, Chris worked in the Directorate of Health Standards in the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in Washington DC, where she conducted occupational risk assessment to support chemical regulations. In 1997, Chris moved to the NIOSH Office of the Director in Washington, DC, where she served as a senior scientist. In 2004, she moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, as Chief of the Risk Evaluation Branch in the Division of Science Integration (DSI). Throughout her career, Chris's focus has been assessing chemical hazards to workers and determining how those hazards can be most effectively mitigated through science policy. In her time in DSI, Chris has been involved in the development of NIOSH science policy, including thinking around the utility and processes in systematic review, the NIOSH Chemical Carcinogen Policy, the NIOSH Practices in Occupational Risk Assessment, the NIOSH Occupational Exposure Banding Process for Chemical Risk Management, as well as several documents on occupational exposure to various workplace chemicals.