

Procedures for working safely with carcinogens and mutagens

Indications for the use of suitable procedures to work safely with carcinogens and / or mutagens. General procedures and procedures for handling antineoplastic chemotherapy in the health field.

Where in the workplace it is not possible to replace potentially carcinogenic agents with other agents that are not dangerous to health or less dangerous in the conditions of use, it is necessary to apply precise technical, organizational or procedural measures and suitable procedures aimed at minimizing the number of workers and reduce the duration and intensity of exposure to lower values.

To deal with more general procedures and specific procedures in the health sector, we focus on the content of the document - produced by the INAIL Risk Assessment and Prevention Technical Consultancy (CONTARP) - entitled "Agenti cancerogeni e mutageni. Lavorare sicuri" ("Carcinogens and mutagens. Work safely").

In general, in order to work safely with carcinogens and / or mutagens, it is necessary to comply with the following recommendations:

- isolate the activities in predetermined areas, provided with signs and accessible only to authorized personnel;
- use the quantities of substances strictly necessary for carrying out the activity;
- follow the instructions on the product label and on the relative safety data sheet, for each phase of use, storage, disposal;
- strictly follow the procedures provided by the Employer;
- regularly clean the premises, equipment and instruments;
- make sure that the workplace is equipped with an emergency shower and eye wash;
- ensure that the agents are stored, handled and transported in safe conditions, also for disposal purposes, using airtight and clearly labeled containers, according to the law prescriptions;
- dispose of residues with reference to waste disposal procedures or product safety data sheets;
- before leaving the workplace, wash your hands thoroughly; discard work clothes that could be contaminated, and store them separately from clean clothes;
- store the substances in fume cupboards, duly closed, whose shelves are equipped with anti-tipping and containment devices in case of spills, taking into account the possible incompatibilities between different substances.

Finally, it is emphasized that "in work areas where there is a risk of exposure, it is forbidden to eat and drink, smoke, store food intended for human consumption, use mouth pipettes and apply cosmetics.