Advanced Industrial Hygiene: Chemical Exposure Control

14 – 25 December 2026
Milan (Italy)

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Advanced Industrial Hygiene: Chemical Exposure Control

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Advanced Industrial Hygiene: Chemical Exposure Control is a 2-week course for hygienists and HSE specialists who already sample chemical agents and now need to predict, judge and reduce exposure across a whole site. It adds toxicology, exposure modeling and statistical judgment to sampling, and you take back a Site Exposure Control Plan for your own operation. Mercury Training Center delivers this advanced industrial hygiene course.

About This Course

Sampling results alone rarely tell a site what to fix first or what a new process will release. This course closes that gap. You should already plan or collect air samples at work. You practice on dose-response data, monitoring datasets and process descriptions, building model estimates and control choices in small teams.

Who It Is For

- Industrial hygiene practitioners who own monitoring strategies and interpret results for a site.
- HSE engineers who select ventilation, isolation and other engineering measures for chemical processes.
- Occupational health leads who link exposure findings to medical surveillance and toxicology advice.
- Chemical safety and laboratory specialists who keep inventories, data sheets and analysis quality.
- HSE managers and auditors who review hygiene performance and approve reduction plans.

This course is not for newcomers who have never taken an air sample; an introductory sampling and exposure course suits them better. It also does not suit readers who need only general hazard awareness for their own job; a short awareness session fits them better.

Competencies You Will Build

- Toxicological Reasoning: you read dose-response and target organ data and explain what they mean for a task.
- Exposure Modeling: you estimate airborne concentrations for tasks that have not been measured yet.
- Statistical Exposure Judgment: you describe the spread of a dataset and decide whether a group is acceptable.
- Monitoring Strategy Design: you set sampling objectives, numbers and quality checks before fieldwork starts.
- Engineering Control Selection: you match ventilation, isolation or substitution to the source and verify that it works.
- Hygiene Plan Governance: you run audits, reports and management reviews that keep exposure falling.

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What You Will Be Able to Do

By the end of the course you will be able to:

- Given a chemical inventory and its safety data sheets, classify each agent and record its main health effects and routes of entry.
- Using a near-field and far-field model, predict concentrations for a planned task and decide whether sampling is needed.
- From a set of personal sampling results, calculate the geometric mean, geometric standard deviation and 95th percentile and compare them with the limit.
- Given a similar exposure group above its limit, rank control options and write the design brief for the preferred one.
- Using an audit checklist, review a site's monitoring records and list the gaps to close.
- From the results of the whole course, assemble a reduction plan with owners and review points for your own site.

Course Content

Day 1: Hygiene Practice and Hazard Recognition

- Anticipation, Recognition, Evaluation and Control Cycle for a Site Hygiene Function
- Occupational Health Plan Structure and Roles for Hygiene Staff
- Chemical Hazard Categories: Gases, Vapors, Dusts, Fumes and Mists
- Walk-Through Hazard Recognition Survey of a Production Area
- Workplace Chemical Inventory Build-Up with Usage Quantities

Day 2: Toxicology for Hygienists

- Dose-Response Curves and Threshold Concepts Applied to Solvents and Metals
- Acute and Chronic Effects in Short-Term and Shift-Long Tasks
- Target Organ Effects for Liver, Lung, Nervous System and Skin
- Absorption Pathways: Inhalation, Dermal Uptake and Ingestion
- Toxicology Data Sources and How to Read a Toxicological Summary

Day 3: Classification and Hazard Communication

- GHS Classification and Hazard Statements for Mixtures
- Sixteen-Section Safety Data Sheet Review for Completeness
- Labeling and Hazard Communication Checks at Transfer Points
- Carcinogens, Sensitizers and Reproductive Toxicants on the Inventory
- Substitution Screening for High-Hazard Chemicals

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Day 4: Exposure Assessment Strategy

- AIHA Exposure Assessment Strategy Applied to a Multi-Process Site
- Similar Exposure Group Design by Task, Area and Shift
- Exposure Profiling and Determinants of Exposure
- Exposure Rating Categories and Initial Judgment Calibration
- EN 689 Approach to Compliance Testing Against Limits

Day 5: Exposure Modeling

- Well-Mixed Room Model for Vapor Release in Enclosed Spaces
- Near-Field and Far-Field Model for Operator Position Estimates
- Emission Rate Estimation from Evaporation and Process Losses
- Model Inputs, Sensitivity and Uncertainty Checks
- Comparing Model Predictions with Existing Sampling Results

Day 6: Air Sampling Design and Quality

- Personal Sampling Methods with Pumps, Badges and Direct-Reading Instruments
- Area Sampling Strategies for Sources and Background
- Sampling Media and Equipment Selection by Agent
- Monitoring Plan Objectives, Sample Numbers and Timing
- Field Blanks, Calibration Records and Chain of Custody

Day 7: Exposure Data Statistics

- Lognormal Distributions, Geometric Mean and Geometric Standard Deviation
- 95th Percentile and Upper Confidence Limits for Group Decisions
- IHSTAT and Bayesian Decision Analysis for Small Datasets
- Variability Between and Within Workers in a Similar Exposure Group
- Exposure Trend Review Across Several Monitoring Campaigns

Day 8: Limits and Engineering Controls

- ACGIH TLVs, Legal Limits and Internal Limits Compared for Decision-Making
- Time-Weighted Averages, Short-Term and Ceiling Limits for Unusual Shifts
- Local Exhaust Ventilation Design Principles and Capture Velocity Checks
- Process Isolation and Enclosure for Charging and Sampling Points
- Administrative Measures and PPE Plans Within the Hierarchy of Controls

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Day 9: Chemical Risk Management and Hygiene Audits

- Risk Characterization and Prioritization of Exposure Groups
- Exposure Reduction Targets and Action Tracking
- ISO 45001 Links for Monitoring, Records and Management Review
- Industrial Hygiene Audit Checklist for Monitoring and Control Records
- Reporting Formats for Workers, Supervisors and Senior Management

Day 10: Control Planning Practice

- Exercise: Re-Running the Day 5 Model with Corrected Emission Data
- Exercise: Statistical Decision on a Day 7 Dataset with Too Few Samples
- Exercise: Choosing Engineering Controls for a Day 8 High-Exposure Task
- Exercise: Auditing a Sample Site File with the Day 9 Checklist
- Completing Your Site Exposure Control Plan and Its Review Schedule

Case Studies and Exercises

The items below are suggested activities.

- Case study: solvent degreasing in a metal fabrication plant; you model operator concentrations and decide where to sample first.
- Case study: catalyst handling in a refinery turnaround; you interpret short-term results and choose isolation measures.
- Exercise: a pharmaceutical dispensing room with a sensitizing powder; you set a monitoring plan and specify containment.
- Exercise: a hospital laboratory using formaldehyde; you analyze a small dataset and write the reduction actions.

What You Take Back

The Site Exposure Control Plan is the document you build across the two weeks for your own operation. In your first month back you check its groups against current records, start the monitoring it schedules, and present its control priorities to the managers who fund them.

- Chemical inventory with toxicology notes and exposure groups.
- Model estimates and a monitoring schedule with quality checks.
- Statistical decisions and the ranked control actions.
- Audit checklist and review timetable.

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Quick Answers FAQ

What should you know before an advanced industrial hygiene chemical exposure course?

You should already collect or plan air samples and be able to read a safety data sheet. Basic spreadsheet skills help with the statistics. Toxicology and modeling are taught from first principles.

How does advanced industrial hygiene chemical exposure training differ from an introductory sampling course?

An introductory course teaches how to take and compare samples. This one adds toxicology, exposure models, statistical decisions on small datasets and the design of engineering controls, then joins them in a site plan.

When can exposure modeling replace air sampling in industrial hygiene?

Modeling is useful before a task starts, for rare tasks and for screening many tasks at once. It does not replace sampling where a model predicts concentrations near the limit; there it shows which groups to measure first.

What do you take back from advanced industrial hygiene chemical exposure training?

You take back a Site Exposure Control Plan for your own operation, with exposure groups, model estimates, a monitoring schedule, statistical decisions and ranked control actions.

For Your Manager

After the course, the team member can predict and measure chemical exposure, judge results statistically and specify engineering controls that reduce it. They return with a Site Exposure Control Plan for their own operation, first used to reset the monitoring schedule and to set the order in which control projects are funded.

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