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Dentistry - Guidelines for handling methacrylate-based materials in the dental laboratory

S.R. CEN/TR 16386:2013

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English Version

Dentistry - Guidelines for handling methacrylate-based materials in the dental laboratory

Médecine bucco-dentaire - Lignes directrices relatives à la
manipulation des matériaux à base de méthacrylate en
laboratoire dentaire

Zahnheilkunde - Leitlinien zur Handhabung von
methacrylatbasierenden Materialien im zahntechnischen
Labor

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Foreword

This document (CEN/TR 16386:2013) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 055 “Dentistry”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

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This document has been prepared by Working Group 8 *Occupational risk assessments* of CEN/TC 55 *Dentistry*.

Introduction

In 2008 CEN/TC 55 established a new working group WG 8 *Occupational risk assessments*. The rationale for the group was concern about occupational health issues for personnel working with methacrylate-based products in dentistry. These materials (e.g. removable denture and orthodontic base materials, tray materials, dental repair materials etc.) may pose a risk because of the presence of methacrylate monomers. The objective of WG 8 was to review the present status regarding the prevalence and awareness of the risk of methacrylate based materials among dental personnel. In addition the occupational health and safety regulations in different countries were considered. Based on the results of the survey carried out by the group, this Technical Report has been produced as a guideline for handling methacrylate based materials in dental laboratories to maintain the safety of the occupational environment.

Aspects of this report may be applicable to dental practises.

After reviewing the scientific literature and making an investigation among European dental technicians, adverse effects on the skin seem to be the main occupational risk for dental technicians. Uncured methyl methacrylate is a risk factor for skin disease and it has been defined by The European Chemicals Bureau as a risk substance [1]. The report concluded that there is a risk for toxic, neurotoxic as well as sensitising reactions to personnel in dental laboratories and there is need for limiting the risks.

Other risk factors for occupational related skin reactions as eczema are wet work, handling of different chemicals and plaster.

Dust from grinding polymer-based materials and vapour of monomers may also be a risk to the airways.

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