

JULY

The Exposure to Biological Agents in the Manufacturing Sector: Risk Assessment

The risk of exposure to biological agents is potentially always present in all living and working environments and Testo Unico D.Lgs. 81/2008 devotes you an entire title, Title X Exposure to biological agents.

ARPA and INAIL Liguria have developed a calculation algorithm that, through qualitative evaluations, leads to a score associated with a risk value similar to that already widely used by classical methods for assessing the risk of exposure to chemicals.

MTM Consulting can also follow your company in managing this specific subject, through the use of recognized recognition methods, creating specific work and inspection procedures for your business realities.

Although the risk of exposure to biological agents is a matter of working in an environment where biological agents are manipulated, such as a research lab or a healthcare facility, it is present in almost all companies. Some types of business situations may expose their workers to the risk of contact with biological agents. This is the case for those who, for example, perform sanitizing, purge sewage systems, access to remote areas of the company, and with unmanageable minimum hygiene levels, waste treatment and storage, management of company purifiers, system interventions Aeroulc, first aid workers, etc.

The method proposed by ARPA and INAIL calculates a risk related to a disease related to the type of disease that can be contracted in case of exposure and to a probability. The likelihood of contracting a biological infection is influenced by many factors that are summarized in the method in six major factors:

- The amount of potentially infected material manipulated;
- The frequency of manipulation of potentially infected substances;
- The presence of collective protection devices present;
- The presence of good working practices and hygiene standards;
- The presence and use of DPI workers eligible for biological risk;
- The presence of adequate training and information of workers.

The result of the evaluation, which must be shared with the Competent Doctor, leads to a level of risk that determines how the company's management of its individual tasks is in line with the risks involved.

Such assessment must be formalized in a specific document.