OEL Committee Sponsor Relationships

The mission of the OEL Committee is to derive and update occupational exposure limits (OEL) based on the available acceptable scientific evidence.

OELs are created for industrial hygiene and OEHS practitioners to protect worker health from inhalation exposures associated with chemicals. There are far more chemicals in commerce today without occupational exposure limits than those that do; and many more chemicals rapidly entering the marketplace driving demand for new OEL values. Likewise, existing OELs require review and updating as the scientific knowledgebase expands. Making the work of the OEL Committee in developing new or updated OELs valuable to the profession. Engaging with sponsors helps the OEL Committee achieve their mission through financial support for committee operations and access to data.

Sponsors and Grantors are critical to fund and maintain the activities of the OEL Committee including offsetting travel and meeting expenses, operating expenses and software subscriptions. Sponsorships may come from other professional associations, member associations, chemical manufacturers or the military. Sponsors do not buy or contract for services, accept or reject the work of the committee, nor do they have influence on the OEL values established by the committee.

The relationship between the OEL Committee and sponsors is carefully controlled and limited in engagement. The following are OEL Committee member obligations for sponsored OELs.

- Members of the OEL Committee must report conflicts of interest and recuse themselves from involvement on OEL setting when conflicts exist.
- Members must refrain from discussion of the sponsored OEL with the sponsor.
- The OEL Committee votes to form an author team to review toxicology data and determine if an OEL value for the chemistry of concern can be developed.
    - If data allow, generate an OEL value.
    - If data do not allow, provide a written summary of the rationale for not developing an OEL to the Sponsor.
- The OEL Committee follows all standard operating processes and procedures for developing an OEL value including participating in committee presentations and discussion, balloting, peer review and public comment, comment resolution, quality control and publication.
- The AIHA Guideline Foundation retains ownership of the OEL.

- The OEL Committee provides periodic written updates on the OEL setting status.

Sponsor engagement with the OEL Committee is limited as follows:

- Providing sponsor-owned data and presenting a summary of the data to the full OEL committee in an open meeting.
- Sponsors are afforded the opportunity to review the OEL Technical Supporting Document for data transfer accuracy. They are not allowed to engage in review or comment on data interpretation.
- Sponsors may provide public comments on the OEL documentation.
- Sponsors, upon request from the OEL Committee, will provide responses to technical comments following the public comment period.
- The Sponsor provides funds to support the AIHA GF OEL Committee, but funding is not contingent on scientific interpretations of the committee or approval of specific OEL values or their documentation.

To find out more about sponsorship engagement and opportunities, please contact oel@aiha.org.