

PIMEX in the aluminium industry-Experiences from the new PIMEX technology and from the implementation in one plant

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As a result of a project aiming at implementation of PIMEX in the aluminium smelting industry, Norway, Island and Sweden have all members of AMS (Nordic branch organization for the aluminium industry) access to technique as well as knowledge for the purpose. Hardware and software have been developed by a German company in collaboration with Dalarna University. Design of user interface is based on earlier experiences from the Swedish PIMEX team.

At least three companies of the ten AMS members have started the implantation. One representative have presented his experiences for the Norwegian Association for Occupational Hygiene and concluded as follows.

The companies aim

- Identify and reduce or eliminate hazardous exposure
- To use PIMEX as a pedagogic tool for involvement of workers in avoiding exposure
- To use PIMEX for training in best practice

Identified disadvantages

- Expensive equipment
- More measurements since PIMEX doesn't replace traditional exposure measurements
- Labour consuming

Identified advantages

- Identifies high exposure related to work tasks
- Identifies how exposure can be reduced or eliminated
- Involves all in problem solving
- Demonstrates the impotence of good work practice
- Supports consensus about and give motivation to use best practice
- Better training of workers, supervisors and managers
- Better base for goal oriented measures and investments
- Good documentation of the results of control measures

It was concluded that the advantages well exceeded the disadvantages.

It is obvious that some of the involved companies will need more support to fully implement the method. To have a dedicated occupational hygienist as responsible in the company is essential.