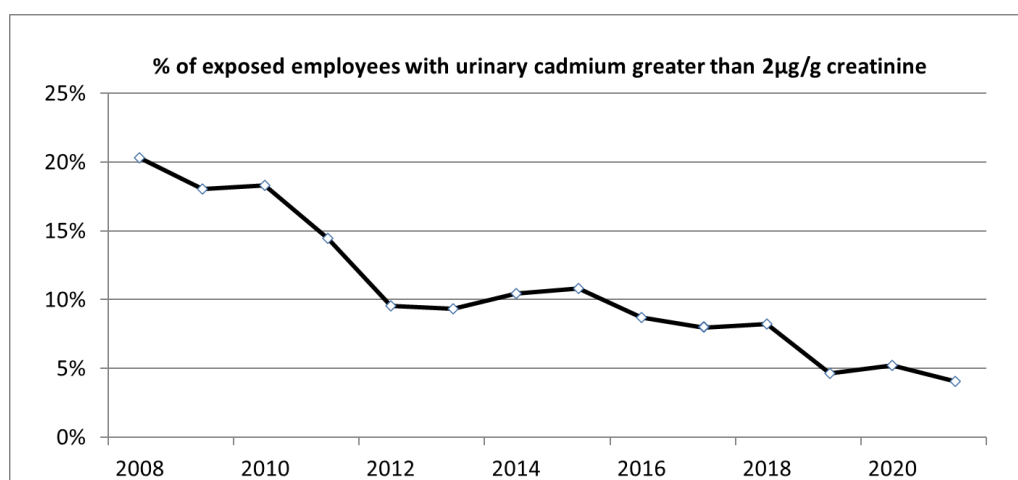


Key messages on cadmium occupational monitoring and integrated exposure management

- The members of the International Cadmium Association (ICdA) have been implementing for more than a decade a strict set of measures to protect workers from exposure to cadmium. These measures are built on the SCOEL 2010 recommendation to implement both
 - ✓ a BLV to protect workers against systemic toxicity of Cd, mainly renal and bone effects
 - ✓ an OEL necessary to protect workers against long-term local effects
- This combined approach was confirmed by SCOEL in 2017 and acknowledged by the Commission in Directive 2019/983/EU, and the RAC was asked to assess this combined monitoring as an efficient way to protect against all adverse health effect.
- The ICdA's 14th annual EU sampling of over 5000 workers exposed to cadmium in 40 EU plants (sampling cadmium in air, in blood and in urine) demonstrates that implementing a combination of a BLV of 2µg Cd/g creatinine and an OEL of 4 µg Cd/m³ respirable fraction (as recommended by SCOEL 2017) is an effective approach to ensure a steady decrease of cadmium body burden of exposed workers.
- The RAC proposal would further reduce both the OEL value by a factor of 40x and the BLV by a factor of 2x.
- The 14 years of practical experience have evidenced that the implementation of biomonitoring is now widely supported in the plants and their occupational doctors and that the limit values set forward by SCOEL are sufficiently low to reduce the risk of chronic cadmium diseases to an insignificant level.



Ref.: ICdA position on OEL and BLV for cadmium_September 2022