

## Safety Corner

What is the “No Time to Lose” campaign?

Cancer caused by what people do at work is nothing new; across the European Union alone, one in five workers faces an occupational cancer risk. With an estimated 666,000 or more fatalities worldwide every year, the number of people dying from a work-related cancer far outstrips those dying because of work accidents.

The Institution of Occupational and Health (IOSH) has launched the “No Time to Lose” campaign to raise awareness of occupational cancer as a significant health issue facing workers in the UK and internationally and to suggest some solutions to tackling the problem. It is a model that can be transposed internationally, to offer free, practical and original materials to businesses to help them deliver effective prevention programmes.

It is often difficult to get individuals to change their lifestyle to reduce their risk of cancer but safety practitioners can make a difference by helping to reduce the risk of cancer at workplaces through identifying potential carcinogenic substances found in the workplace, developing control measures to prevent exposure, and ensuring correct implementation of controls and sustained proactive monitoring.

Engineers can contribute by considering engineering control in designs and work methods. How effective an engineering control is, however, depends also on its implementation; for example, local exhaust ventilation must be positioned correctly to capture contaminant. This also highlights the need for good training and supervision in the workplace.

The No Time to Lose campaign has caught the attention of many large corporations and business in Hong Kong. MTR has collaborated with IOSH to produce an information pack to raise awareness of diesel-induced occupational cancer with localised content for Cantonese speaking workers.

For more information about IOSH’s No Time to Lose campaign and to find out how you can get involved, visit [www.notimetolose.org.uk](http://www.notimetolose.org.uk).

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