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## **The request for advice**

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The Health Council of the Netherlands received a request from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment on 22 January 2009 to reassess the health-based occupational exposure limit recommended by the Health Council for five substances on the basis of the Scientific Committee for Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) recommendation for the substance in question:

Dear Ms Wijbenga,

By letter of 27 November 2008 (ref ARBO/P&G/2008/33902), the Acting Chief of the Occupational Safety department of my Directorate has asked you to draw up a brief overview. In preparation to a quick scan for the health-based occupational exposure limits for the seven named substances. The context of this request has been explained in the above-mentioned letter. Specifically, this letter asked that you first draw up a brief overview, after which I would provide you with a detailed request for further activities. May I ask that you forward this request to the President of the Health Council of the Netherlands.

I have received the brief overview referred to, for which I thank you; it was discussed recently between the Health Council and Directorate staff. My specific request to you now is as follows.

I ask that you reassess the health-based occupational exposure limits recommended previously by the Health Council, on the basis of the SCOEL recommendation for this substance. As needed, I ask that you include in this reassessment the new studies on which SCOEL has based its advice and which

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were not yet available at the time of the Health Council advisory report. Your staff have indicated that a scientific study summary may first need to be prepared, of which I have taken note.

With respect to the substance list, and based on your statement of affairs, you may disregard formaldehyde until future notice.

With respect to scheduling, I would ask that you submit your recommendation no later than 1 July 2010.

Yours sincerely,

Director, Occupational Safety and Health,

(signed)

M.P. Flier