Cooperation between the Air Analyses Working Group of the MAK Commission and the Analytics Working Group of the German Social Accident Insurance Association (DGUV, under the leadership of BG RCI)

The two working groups have been collaborating closely for many years in connection with analytical methods for air measurements of working substances. The steering committee, to which participants are invited by the heads of the working groups, Mr. Hebisch and Mr. Brock, decides how the content is divided between the work packages to ensure that there is no unnecessary duplication. The Air Analyses working group normally concentrates on the methods required to measure the relevant substances, on the basis of the recommended limit values in the MAK Values working group. The Analytics working group sees its main focus in CMR substances (substances which are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction). Another aspect of added value provided by the cooperation is the English translation and publication of methods compiled by the Analytics working group, as a supplement to the MAK Collection. The measurement methods recognised by accident insurers are published in German by the DGUV. Both working groups apply agreed quality criteria, which guarantee a high level of reliability of the content. This is additionally supported by a partial staff overlap between the two groups.

The quality criteria are the normative requirements, particularly those defined in DIN EN 482 "Workplace exposure - General requirements for the performance of procedures for the measurement of chemical agents" and DIN EN 481 "Workplaces atmospheres; size fraction definitions for measurement of airborne particles". In addition to a practical review of the methods used by the Air Analyses working group, the two groups agreed on a shared concept for the plausibility assessment of methods. This is available in the MAK Collection at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/3527600418.amevalmethd0015 (document in German).

All published methods of both working groups were evaluated by the measurement research group of Subcommittee I (UA I) of the Committee on Hazardous Substances (AGS) with respect to their suitability for monitoring the assessment criteria applicable in Germany, and are published at www.baua.de/dok/8562832.