



## An Introduction

**In the construction industry today, great and increasing use is made of products from the chemical industry. Handling these products can present health risks to the workers involved. Regulations issued by the trade associations and by the state, for the purposes of protecting employees from substances used at work, place many duties on an employer. Implementing these duties in their daily operations is often beyond the scope of such firms. GISBAU, a service facility provided by the construction industry trade associations, offers support in this situation, making it easier to deal safely with hazardous substances.**

Companies in the construction industry are often of small to medium size - 90% of firms employ less than 20 staff. Chemical knowledge, let alone toxicological knowledge, is not usually present.

Even when the necessary information is available about manufacturers' products, the task of translating this into protective working procedures remains. This applies above all to the mobile working places found in the construction industry. Procedures that can successfully be applied at stationary places of work, such as protective equipment like air extractors, can often not be implemented under the constantly changing conditions found on building sites. It must therefore be recognised that implementing the numerous prescriptions and bodies of regulations for handling working materials presents enormous practical problems.

Against this background GISBAU makes an information system available that provides

the employer with extensive information relating to hazardous substances, relieving him of much of the load presented by his duties of investigation, supervision and instruction in accordance with the hazardous substance regulations. At the heart of the system is **product information** and **procedural instruction** outlines in accordance with § 20 of the hazardous substance regulations (Gefahrstoffverordnung).

In addition to this product-related information, **brochures** and **general instructions** for dealing with these substances provide an overview of the particular problems of hazardous substances arising in relation to particular aspects of construction. This information can be obtained from the construction industry trade associations (see the last page for addresses).

GISBAU have, with the **WINGIS** PC program, also provided a facility for interrogating and printing out all this information on a local computer.

## GISBAU Product Information

**GISBAU-Information**

**Productname**

R and S advice  
(Advice on risks and on safety)

- Characterisation
- Limiting levels and classifications
- Measurement of hazardous materials
- Risks to health
- Toxicological effect profile
- Hygiene measures
- Technical and organisational protective measures
- Personal protection
- First aid
- General handling
- Precautionary investigations
- Disposal
- Storage
- In the event of damage
- Transport of hazardous goods
- Copyright
- Directory of hazardous materials

Substitute materials - substitute products - substitute procedures

### Contents of GISBAU product information

In order to ensure safe handling of working materials that are hazardous to health in the construction industry, understandable information that is closely related to practice is required.

GISBAU initially prepares **substance information** for all the individual chemicals contained in the construction products. Since, however, firms in the construction industry primarily work with products, i.e. mixtures of substances, an important innovation, in comparison with other data banks, is the emphasis on the preparation of **product information**. This is partly based on the substance information, but also on information provided by manufacturers (e.g. safety data sheets and technical notes). The information is then extended using data referring to particular processes. GISBAU pays attention not only to the various application procedures, but also very much to the results of the measurements performed at places of work by the construction industry trade associations. This makes it possible, for the first time, to make concrete statements regarding the protective measures and procedural rules relevant to various types of application.

As an example, it may be that with one particular adhesive for floor coverings it is possible to work without taking protective steps, but that a different adhesive may only be used with extraction or with breathing protection.

Since many products represent comparable risks to health, and therefore call for the same protective measures to be taken, GISBAU assembles the information on individual products into **product group information**. The effect of this is that, with a few groups, information can be given regarding a large number of products of the same type.

## Special Sectors

GISBAU information related to procedures and users exist for the following working sectors:

- Working in contaminated areas
- Renovation of buildings and concrete constructions
- Roofers
- Coating removal (stripping)
- Tile laying
- Floor covering work
- Cleaning buildings
- Building construction
- Wood protectives
- Insulation
- Painting work
- Laying parquet floors and grinding work
- Acid-proof construction
- Wood glues etc.

Product information and additional information material has been prepared for these special sectors. In particular cases, technical rules for hazardous materials (TRGS - Technische Regeln für Gefahrstoffe) that promote the use of less dangerous stripping agents, cements, floor covering adhesives or parquet sealant have been developed.

## User Orientation

Information about working materials must not only be available to the user of the product itself, but must also be present at other locations within the firm. In particular, information is prepared for the following types of personnel:

- **Employers**
- **Works committees**
- **Work safety specialists**
- **Inspectors**
- **Occupational medical staff**
- **Employees**

The information for workers is presented in the form of operating instructions, which only need to be extended by the company

with data specific to the place of work and the particular operation. This makes extensive information available for all the important groups involved in work safety, extending the basis for the co-operation of these persons in preventive working protection.

The application of materials containing lower levels of harmful substances most often not only assists working protection, but is also of benefit to the environment and reduces pollution of inside air. GISBAU product information is therefore a valuable aid to those taking decisions regarding the selection of construction materials, such as architects, building authorities and clients.

## Information Program and Advice on Handling

In addition to the information about particular products, GISBAU also prepares information material regarding specific topics related to hazardous materials. The purpose of this is to guide everyone responsible for working protection, whether inside or outside the companies concerned, towards dealing safely with construction products. The following brochures and handling instructions are currently available at the construction industry trade associations:



- **Hazardous Substances in Building, Renovating and Cleaning**  
(Reference number 613)
- **Hazardous Substances in the Builder's Yard**  
(Reference number 620)
- **Primers and Adhesives - GISCODE for Parquet and Floor Covering Work**  
(Reference number 617)
- **Epoxide Resins in the Construction Industry**  
(Reference number 616.4)
- **Handling Mineral Wool Insulation Materials (Glass Wool and Rock Wool) for 'Engineering Insulation' and 'Building Construction'**  
not available in english

**Leaflets** are also available relating to the individual construction sectors, which provide information on the special features of dealing with the products used or using the working procedures in short and easily understood form. Examples of such summarised information are "Thermal Removal of Old Coatings - an Alternative to Chemical Stripping Agents", "Masonry Dross - TRGS 613 Offers a Solution" or "Synthetic Mineral Fibres".

# The Distribution of GISBAU Information

## ➤ Construction Industry Trade Associations

The technical supervision services of the construction industry trade associations are the contact partners for questions about GISBAU. Ask for the member of staff responsible for GISBAU! You can also obtain here the GISBAU product information and operating instruction outlines, handling instructions or brochures and the leaflets (see addresses).

## ➤ The WINGIS Computer Program

Those who need information on a large number of construction chemicals may well want to use the WINGIS hazardous substance software. The information related to procedures and uses prepared by GISBAU can be interrogated and printed under the convenient Microsoft Windows user interface with the aid of this hazardous substances information system.

WINGIS offers, in addition to the product information and operating instruction outlines, the facility to generate and administer a directory of hazardous substances. The program also supports the preparation of individual operating instructions for products that are WINGIS does not yet contain. A further component is a "help" system that contains an extensive glossary of hazardous substances.

WINGIS can be obtained from the construction industry trade associations.

## ➤ Internet

Actual formation about hazardous substances resp. products in the construction industry and all information about GISBAU's current activities can be found at [www.gisbau.de](http://www.gisbau.de).

Gefahrstoff-Informationssystem der  
Berufsgenossenschaft der Bauwirtschaft - GISBAU  
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60389 Frankfurt am Main  
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[www.gisbau.de](http://www.gisbau.de)

**For more information please  
contact the regional prevention  
centres of the BG BAU**

### **Region Berlin**

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10715 Berlin  
Telefon: 030 85781-302  
Telefax: 030 85781-333

### **Region Hannover**

Hildesheimer Str. 309  
30519 Hannover  
Telefon: 0511 987-2502  
Telefax: 0511 987-2545

### **Region Hamburg**

Holstenwall 8-9  
20355 Hamburg  
Telefon: 040 35000-555  
Telefax: 040 35000-256

### **Region München**

Landsberger Straße 309  
80687 München  
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### **Region Dresden**

Pirnaer Landstraße 40  
01237 Dresden  
Telefon: 0351 2572-01  
Telefax: 0351 2572-439

### **Region Stuttgart**

Vollmoellerstraße 11  
70563 Stuttgart  
Telefon: 0711 97894-10  
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### **Region Wuppertal**

Hofkamp 84  
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Telefon: 0202 398-5317  
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### **Region Frankfurt**

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60389 Frankfurt  
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### **Region Dortmund**

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44135 Dortmund  
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