



CHI- 10 Centro Colaborador OPS/OMS para Salud Ocupacional

Autores: Luis Caroca Marchant, MSc; Jaime Ibacache Araya MSc.
Institución: Departamento Salud Ocupacional, Sección de Ergonomía, Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile.

Cómo este Centro Colaborador está contribuyendo al logro de los ODS

Se establecen una serie de compromisos con OPS / OMS, respecto a desarrollar mayor conocimiento, estrategias, métodos y herramientas para incorporar la **Ergonomía Participativa** en el ámbito laboral, tanto a nivel nacional como en América Latina, para lo cual el Departamento Salud Ocupacional del Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile, trabajará lo siguiente:

3 SALUD Y BIENESTAR: Se proporcionará capacitación en el ámbito de la salud ocupacional y la ergonomía, con énfasis en los aspectos participativos, para fortalecer la capacidad de todos los países miembros, en especial los de ingresos mas bajos y en desarrollo, para controlar los accidentes y enfermedades relacionadas al trabajo.

8 TRABAJO DECENTE Y CRECIMIENTO ECONÓMICO: Se promoverá la participación activa de todos los actores involucrados, para que las empresas e instituciones utilicen la participación, como un mecanismo para lograr entornos de trabajo seguros y saludables, logrando con ello también, mejorar aspectos productivos, lo cual tendrá un impacto positivo en los propios trabajadores, sus familias y sus comunidades.

Entregables

- Actividad solicitada para cumplir con el objetivo 2.3, sobre programas de prevención de enfermedades ocupacionales, relacionadas con el amianto, sílice, agentes cancerígenos, estresantes ergonómicos y riesgos psicosociales, del Plan de Acción de Salud del Trabajador de la OPS, incluido en su Línea Estratégica de Acción 2, para identificar, evaluar, prevenir y controlar las exposiciones peligrosas en el lugar de trabajo.
- Además se relaciona con la Línea Estratégica de Acción 5, cuyo objetivo es fortalecer la capacidad de diagnóstico, los sistemas de información, la vigilancia epidemiológica y la investigación en el campo de las enfermedades, lesiones y muertes ocupacionales.
- El Modelo Ergonómico Participativo, contribuirá a alcanzar parte de estos objetivos como parte del TOR 2, de un total de 4 TOR comprometidos por este Centro Colaborador.

Recomendaciones

- Fomentar interacción entre los CC en esta materia, de manera tal que la metodología de Ergonomía Participativa sea incorporada efectivamente en el ámbito laboral de los Estados Miembros de la Región.
- Una intervención ergonómica participativa en el ámbito laboral supone elaborar un programa ajustado a las necesidades y posibilidades de las organizaciones, considerando no solo los aspectos técnicos y metodológicos, sino también el compromiso de todos los involucrados.
- Recoger experiencias y buenas prácticas de Ergonomía Participativa, y recopilar información del modelo de Ergonomía Participativa aplicado en entornos laborales de los Estados Miembros de la Región.
- Analizar los datos acumulados identificando factores que facilitan y dificultan la aplicación del modelo.



Términos de referencia

TOR 2: A solicitud de la OPS / OMS, la institución propuesta, apoyará los esfuerzos de la OPS / OMS para desarrollar métodos y herramientas sobre ergonomía participativa.

- Elaborar informe técnico sobre metodología de Ergonomía Participativa para su aplicación en diferentes entornos laborales.
- Elaborar Informe de las experiencias y buenas prácticas para la transferencia de conocimiento a diferentes países.
- Elaborar Informe de resultados obtenidos de los Estados Miembros de la Región.
- Desarrollar Herramientas para la difusión de información y la práctica del conocimiento.
- Realizar Taller de difusión de información y resultados de las buenas prácticas y experiencias.





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PAHO/WHO Collaborating Centre for Occupational Health

Authors: Espinoza A., Guerrero C., Delgado O., Alcaíno J., Miranda P.

Department/Division, Institution: Occupational Health Department - Institute of Public Health of Chile

How this Collaborating Centre is contributing to the achievement of the SDGs

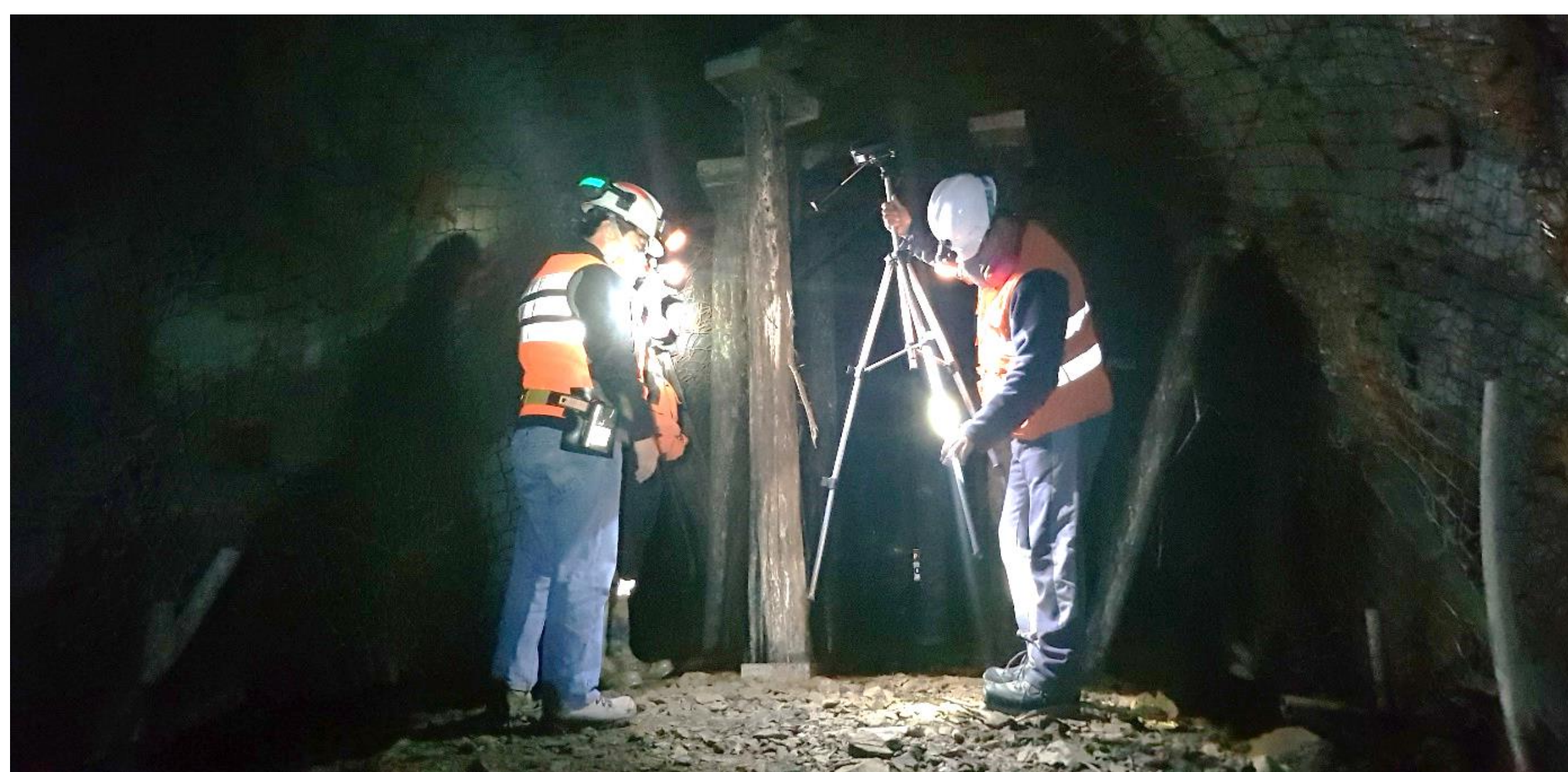
This Collaborating Centre is contributing to the achievement of SDG # 3 and # 10 and related to TOR 3 by next activities:

- Prepare instrumental technical background paper for the Radon measurement methodologies in underground work settings such as in mining and infrastructure industries.
- Collect, analyze, and disseminate information about Radon measurement methodologies in underground work settings in Chile.
- Disseminate the methodology and provide training on the Radon measurement methodologies used in underground work settings.



Deliverables

1. Report on the technological transfer training on Radon Gas Measurements.
2. Dissemination of the results of the study of exposure to Radon in underground mining operations, corresponding to the national small, medium, and large metal extractive mining.
3. A report from the training sessions presenting results.



Recommendations

1. If measuring methodology of radon gas and progenies is implemented as a surveillance tool in workplaces would contributing to risk assessment process and to implementing of control measures of occupational exposure to prevent related diseases, especially lung cancer.
2. To know results of radon exposure levels in work environments, to establish appropriate health policies and criteria for managing the risk, appropriate to national conditions.

MANUAL DE LA OMS SOBRE EL RADÓN EN INTERIORES

UNA PERSPECTIVA DE SALUD PÚBLICA



Terms of Reference

TOR 3: Under PAHO/WHO's leadership the proposed institution will support PAHO/WHO to develop analytical methods for assessment of chemical hazards at the workplace.

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO RADON IN WORKPLACES IN UNDERGROUND MINING OPERATIONS

Espinoza A., Guerrero C., Delgado O., Alcaíno J., Miranda P. – Instituto de Salud Pública de Chile

Introduction:

Internationally, methodologies and criteria have been established to know the possible problem that radon could constitute at workplace. Chile is a country where mining is one of the main economic activities, some are done in underground way, however few radon workplace assessment of radon have been made, less with occupational health criteria, so there is no with a baseline that reflects the magnitude of risk in the workplace. On the other hand, currently there is not specific regulation that establishes exposure limits or criteria under which to address the presence of radon at workplace. Adding issue problem is the situation that many of these activities occur at high geographical altitudes, since, in the country, many of these activities occur between 2000 and 5000 meters above sea level.

Objectives:

- ❖ Perform radon measurements in workplaces in the mining sector, in order to have evidence that allows a preliminary assessment of the magnitude of the risk from radon exposure.
- ❖ Have results of radon exposure levels in work environments, which define the need to extend the measurements to other economic sectors and work areas, in order to establish appropriate health policies and criteria for managing the risk, appropriate to national conditions.

Methods:

Sample size and type.

Measurements have been made in two underground mines located in central and northern Chile, both with the particularity of being at a considerable geographical altitude.

An **Airthings Corentium Pro** detector was used, which was located at respiratory level of workers with sampling periods of one hour, obtaining a mean concentration value within one hour.

Workplace variables.

Temperature, relative humidity and barometric pressure were measured. In addition, data related to ventilation (type and flow) of the areas to be evaluated will be recorded.

Also exposure time and schedules, geographic altitude, type and use of respiratory protection, type of fortification or other sealing of walls and water leaks, the type of activity, also including places where food is consumed.

Concentration and dose criteria. 1000 Bq/m³ and 10 mSv.

Dose calculations derived from radon concentrations and its decay products.

Radon concentration, Working level (WL), Working Level Month (WLM), Equilibrium Equivalent Concentration (EEC), Concentración equivalente de equilibrio (EEC), Equilibrium factor (F) = 0.4.



Results:

Table 1: Mining operations assessed.

Mine site	Geographical altitude (MASL)	Measurements	Measurement distribution
A	Between 3000 and 4000	50	Transport level. Subsidence level. Production level and crushing plants. Grinding.
B	Between 2000 and 3000	48	Production level. Dump. Foundry.

Table 2: Main results.

Mine Site	Measurement site	Concentration Average (Bq/m ³)	WL	WLM	Dose (mSv/year)
A	Subsidence level Sector 1	63,60	0,01	0,11	0,56
A	Subsidence level Sector 2	980,80	0,14	0,40	1,98
A	Transport level	19,50	>0,0001	>0,0001	>0,01
A	Crushing plant	253,00	0,05	0,07	0,35
A	Grinding plant	50,00	0,01	0,01	0,07
B	Production level Sector 1	27,00	<0,0001	<0,0001	<0,01
B	Production level Sector 2	9,00	<0,0001	<0,0001	<0,01
B	Office workshops – ventilation	182,00	0,02	0,23	1,13
B	Office workshops + ventilation	85,00	0,01	0,11	0,56

Discussion:

Concentrations at Mining Site A fluctuate between 9 and 1304 Bq/m³ of radon, while at Site B concentrations between 9 and 163 Bq/m³. Annual effective dose values in Site A range from 0.07 mSv to 1.98 mSv per year, while for Site B they range between <0.01 mSv to 1.13 mSv per year.

All values were obtained with normal ventilation conditions and in the warmer season. Presumably, in the colder season with technical difficulties imposed by the low temperatures that occur at these geographical heights. Likewise, due to rain or snowfall, the greater presence of water percolated through the mining substrate could be a factor that can increase the concentration of radon gas in the air. An exception to the above, are the last two readings of Site B, in which there was the opportunity to take measurements under conditions with normal ventilation and without by scheduled maintenance activity, producing increase in radon concentration.

Conclusions:

There are presence of radon gas at workplace in underground mining operations. The dose levels founded are less of levels that imply the implementation of mitigation measures. However levels are significant compared with levels are usually found for practices authorized in country, therefore, it is convenient to continue assessments for more robust information regarding the real magnitude of the problem previously to promote a treatment of this type of exposures is approached from a policy or regulatory.

Can be observed that factors such as ventilation are fundamental, exists in large underground mining are already present for the control of other pollutants such dust, silica, combustion gases, among others, also other factors such us ambient temperatures, geographical altitude and the natural presence of water could be important.