I. General research activities in Bulgaria related to UV health

Ongoing projects

“New data and analyses of results for UVA and UVB sun protection in cosmetic products for children and adults”

Funds: National budget: National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)
Research team: Physical Factors Department, Chemical substances and mixtures and food contact materials Department at NCPHA
Duration: Stage 2020 - 2021
Objective: within the project evaluation of the UV protection of newly developed cosmetic products for children and adults is performed. The assessment of sun protection is made by applying of physical in vitro method. New sunscreen products (20 creams, lotions, body oils, etc.) were tested to check the declared sun protection factor from the manufacturer. Recommendations for changes of the prescription are made to achieve the declared protection when needed.

“Health Protection of workers and the general population on using bactericidal lamps for disinfection purposes”

Funds: National budget: National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)
Research team: Physical Factors Department at NCPHA
Duration: Stage 2020 - 2021
Objective: To study the new applications and sources of UV radiation used for disinfection, to develop a method of measurement and to make recommendations for safe application.

The use of bactericidal lamps for disinfection is an extremely effective method in the current epidemic situation with COVID-19, and after the epidemic, for periodic disinfection of the air in the premises of health facilities, public buildings, and schools.

During the reported period, data for bactericidal sources used for disinfection of air and surfaces available on the market were collected; measurement of UV radiation emitted by different types of sources were performed; recommendations for safe use of bactericidal sources in schools and hospitals were prepared.

Scientific forums and publications:
1. Scientific forums
2. Publications

II. New Policies and Legislation regarding UV exposure
There is still no any national legislation for general public health protection with regard to exposure from artificial sources of UV radiation.

Directive 2006/25/EC is transposed in the National legislation but still has limited application for workers protection against risks arising from optical radiation exposure. The training of the Regional Health Inspectorates (the control bodies of the Ministry of Health) and private laboratories in the field of legislation, measurement, exposure assessment and protection against optical radiation in the working environment continues.

III. Areas of public concern and national responses
Public concern in this area was directed to the safe use of UV lamps for disinfection of air and surfaces in schools and kindergartens. In response to the public concerns recommendations for safe use of bactericidal sources in schools and hospitals were prepared and disseminated through the Ministry of Health; Verification of safe installation and application of such sources at school was performed.

IV. New public information activities:
Every year, the Ministry of Health issues annual report on the health of the nation, which contains chapter on non-ionizing radiation. There activities of the Expert Advisory Board on NIR, NCPHA, and Regional Health Inspectorates are presented. The information includes the state in the legislation for optical radiation; results from assessment of UV protection of newly developed cosmetic products; results from measurement of UV radiation, etc. The report is available to the public at the web site of the Ministry of Health.

Forecasts for UV index are provided by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. UVI information is published and/or presented in different informational media.

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