

## Result of Expert Panel on Biliary Tract Cancer

Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Tokyo

- The panel reviewed seven biliary tract cancer cases regarding six plants today.
- The panel concluded two cases in a plant in Miyagi Prefecture and a case in a plant in Aichi Prefecture as work-related diseases whereas another case as not work related. The review of rest of three cases is to be continued.
- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare is to notify the claimants of the recognition of work-related diseases based on the result of the panel.

### 1 Summary of the Conclusion

#### <Three cases recognised as work-related diseases>

- ① Two claims regarding a printing plant in Miyagi
  - male printers of ages 40's and 30's, currently under medical care
  - exposure with 1,2-dichloropropane not less than 150 ppm\* for 16 years
- ② One claim regarding a printing plant in Aichi
  - a male printer of age 40's, currently under medical care
  - exposure with dichloromethane not less than 400 ppm\* for 12 years.

\* Administrative threshold proposed by the workers' compensation panel on 14 March 2013

#### <One case decided as not work related>

- male worker in a printing plant, died at the age of 70's
- no chemical exposure found in a sales job

### 2 Actions to be taken by the Ministry

- ① Administration on workers compensation procedure  
The Ministry is to notify the four claimants of the Governmental decision through the local Inspectors Offices based on the result of the panel.
- ② Survey to the health status of the coworkers  
The Miyagi and Aichi Labour Offices are working on the survey to the coworkers of the plants lest there are other cases.
- ③ Preventive actions for chemical hazards control
  - The Ministry is to promulgate the amendment of cabinet order and ordinances by October 2013 at the latest to require local exhaust ventilation, measurement of the ambient chemical and medical examination for employers who use 1,2-dichloropropane for cleaning/degreasing.
  - The Ministry is reviewing the existing Ordinance on Prevention of Organic Solvent Poisoning for possible additional measures to be taken for dichloromethane as possible carcinogen, beside the enforcement of the legal compliance with the Ordinance.
  - Employers are strongly encouraged to follow the guidelines issued in March 2013 when cleaning printers and degreasing metals.