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## A tool to support the substitution of CMR substances

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The substitution of hazardous chemicals is a priority for occupational health safety. However, its effectiveness remains limited despite the fact that substitution is mandatory for chemicals classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or reprotoxic (CMR) 1 or/and 2.

The French Agency for Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (Afsset) was commissioned by the French Ministry of Labour to carry out a study and to develop a tool to support the substitution of chemicals classified as CMR 1 or/and 2.

### Methods:

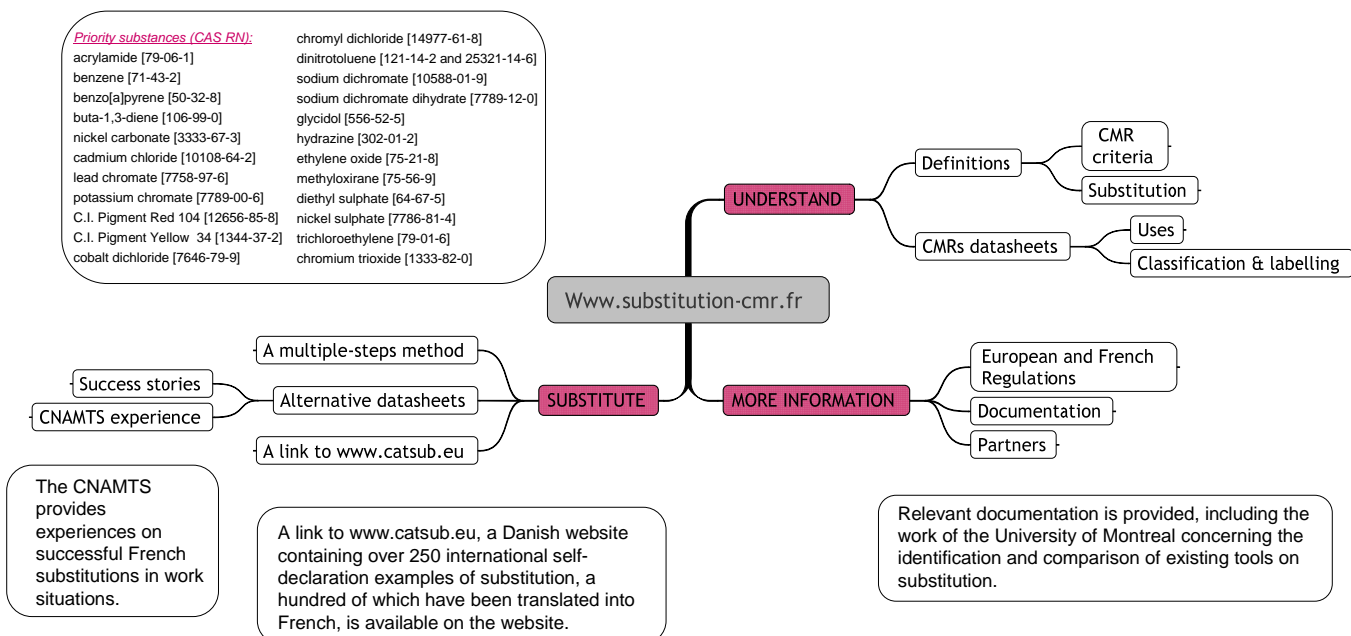
A multidisciplinary working group "CMR substitution" was constituted. The first step of its work consisted in drawing up a priority list of CMRs classified 1 or/and 2 by the European Union after having determined a prioritization methodology and choice criteria; the SIRIS method (System of Integration of Risk with Interaction of Scores) was used. The second step was, for each chemical, to collect data on its properties, uses and alternatives through literature reviews and surveys.

Agreements have also been signed with several institutes on this topic: the French National Health Insurance Fund for Salaried Employees (CNAMTS), the Catsub administrator (Denmark) and the University of Montreal.

### Results:

The tool is a website dedicated to substitution ([www.substitution-cmr.fr](http://www.substitution-cmr.fr)). 23 priority substances were selected taking into consideration their toxicity (CMR classification), the volumes used and the number of workers potentially exposed. Several studies previously carried out in the Agency on formaldehyde, glycol ethers classified as reprotoxic and man-made vitreous fibres were also used.

The website contains different levels to help users substitute: methodologies, datasheets for CMRs and alternatives, success stories, etc. It is intended to address more than 80 substances currently used in France. About 400 industrials using or having used the 23 priority substances have completed a questionnaire. Each alternative datasheet contains a comment from Afsset regarding human health risks.



[www.substitution-cmr.fr](http://www.substitution-cmr.fr) gives keys to conduct a substitution and avoid the transfer of human health risks.

The usefulness of this ambitious and evolutionary (especially for toxicological data) tool will depend on the continuous contribution of all actors. It is aimed primarily at SMEs. It will initially be available in French and will then be translated into English as well as a third language.

This website may also help producers of high concern substances who will need to submit a substitution plan to the European Chemicals Agency according to the REACH regulation.

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