



Haemotronic plays an important role in bringing PVC-free blood bags closer to the market

“The project is a cooperation between industry and European healthcare, aiming at phasing out hazardous substances from healthcare,” says project manager Lena Stigh, from the Jegrelius Institute for Applied Green Chemistry, part of the Regional Council of Jämtland in Sweden, on her visit to Haemotronic SpA in Mirandola.

Lena Stigh is visiting Haemotronic to learn more about the company and its facilities; she makes these visits to all beneficiaries within the project. Haemotronic is responsible for the last link in the supply chain, i.e. producing the bag. The three other European companies participating in the project are Melitek A/S in Denmark, Wipak Oy in Finland and Primo Profile in Poland. Karolinska University Hospital is responsible for evaluating the bag.

There are currently no PVC-free blood bags for red blood cells on the market. The most commonly used plasticizer in blood bags for red blood cells is a substance that is classified as a reproductive disruptor.

“This project has two objectives: to increase demand from healthcare organizations and to demonstrate that it is possible to make a PVC-free blood bag that fulfils the requirements specification.”

The progress towards the production of a PVC-free blood bag has been successful and the work on increasing demand is ongoing. An important factor in increasing demand is the dissemination of knowledge and awareness in partnership with European healthcare providers. Lena Stigh will therefore, the day after her visit to Haemotronic, attend a workshop and the Annual General Meeting of the Health Care Without Harm Europe NGO.

PVCfreeBloodBag is a project within the EU's Life+ Environmental Programme. The full title is *“Public healthcare and plastic makers demonstrate how to remove barriers to PVC-free blood bags in the spirit of REACH”*. It started in the autumn of 2011 and will run for four years.

Do you want to know more?

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