

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
CHLOROFORM**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

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DISCLAIMER

The use of company or product name(s) is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for chloroform was released in April 1993. This edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary, but no less than once every three years. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the Federal, State, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other Federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.



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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepare toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); and February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

CONTRIBUTORS

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. **Green Border Review.** Green Border review assures consistency with ATSDR policy.
2. **Health Effects Review.** The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
3. **Minimal Risk Level Review.** The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific minimal risk levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.

PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for chloroform. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Dr. Richard Bull, Senior Staff Scientist, Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratories, Richland, Washington;
2. Dr. Derek Hodgson, Provost and Vice-president, Academic Affairs, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, Mississippi; and
3. Dr. Nancy Reiches, Private Consultant, Bexley, Ohio.

These experts collectively have knowledge of chloroform's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(i)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound. A list of databases reviewed and a list of unpublished documents cited are also included in the administrative record.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
CONTRIBUTORS	vii
PEER REVIEW	ix
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT	1
1.1 WHAT IS CHLOROFORM?	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO CHLOROFORM WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT? ..	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO CHLOROFORM?	3
1.4 HOW CAN CHLOROFORM ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	4
1.5 HOW CAN CHLOROFORM AFFECT MY HEALTH?	4
1.6 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO CHLOROFORM?	6
1.7 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?	6
1.8 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	8
2. HEALTH EFFECTS	9
2.1 INTRODUCTION	9
2.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	9
2.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	11
2.2.1.1 Death	11
2.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	12
2.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	40
2.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	41
2.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	42
2.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	43
2.2.1.7 Genotoxic Effects	44
2.2.1.8 Cancer	44
2.2.2 Oral Exposure	45
2.2.2.1 Death	45
2.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	46
2.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	90
2.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	91
2.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects	92
2.2.2.6 Developmental Effects	93
2.2.2.7 Genotoxic Effects	94
2.2.2.8 Cancer	95
2.2.3 Dermal Exposure	97
2.2.3.1 Death	97
2.2.3.2 Systemic Effects	97

2.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	100
2.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	100
2.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects	100
2.2.3.6	Developmental Effects	100
2.2.3.7	Genotoxic Effects	100
2.2.3.8	Cancer	100
2.3	TOXICOKINETICS	100
2.3.1	Absorption	101
2.3.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	101
2.3.1.2	Oral Exposure	102
2.3.1.3	Dermal Exposure	104
2.3.2	Distribution	105
2.3.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	105
2.3.2.2	Oral Exposure	107
2.3.2.3	Dermal Exposure	107
2.3.3	Metabolism	108
2.3.4	Elimination and Excretion	112
2.3.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	112
2.3.4.2	Oral Exposure	113
2.3.4.3	Dermal Exposure	113
2.3.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	114
2.3.5.1	Summary of PBPK/PD Models	115
2.3.5.2	Chloroform PBPK Model Comparison	118
2.3.5.3	Discussion of Chloroform Models	118
2.4	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	128
2.4.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms	128
2.4.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity	131
2.4.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	132
2.5	RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	132
2.6	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	156
2.6.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Chloroform	157
2.6.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Chloroform	159
2.7	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	159
2.8	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	161
2.9	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	162
2.9.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	162
2.9.2	Reducing Body Burden	163
2.9.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	163
2.10	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	165
2.10.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Chloroform	165
2.10.2	Identification of Data Needs	166
2.10.3	Ongoing Studies	175
3.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION	177
3.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	177
3.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	177
4.	PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	181

4.1	PRODUCTION	181
4.2	IMPORT/EXPORT	183
4.3	USE	186
4.4	DISPOSAL	187
5.	POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	189
5.1	OVERVIEW	189
5.2	RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	190
5.2.1	Air	190
5.2.2	Water	194
5.2.3	Soil	195
5.3	ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	196
5.3.1	Transport and Partitioning	196
5.3.2	Transformation and Degradation	198
5.3.2.1	Air	198
5.3.2.2	Water	199
5.3.2.3	Sediment and Soil	201
5.4	LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	201
5.4.1	Air	201
5.4.2	Water	203
5.4.3	Sediment and Soil	205
5.4.4	Other Environmental Media	206
5.5	GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	207
5.6	POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	209
5.7	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	210
5.7.1	Identification of Data Needs	210
5.7.2	Ongoing Studies	213
6.	ANALYTICAL METHODS	217
6.1	BIOLOGICAL SAMPLES	217
6.2	ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	220
6.3	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	228
6.3.1	Identification of Data Needs	229
6.3.2	Ongoing Studies	231
7.	REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	233
8.	REFERENCES	247
9.	GLOSSARY	291
APPENDICES		
A.	ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVEL	A-1
B.	USER'S GUIDE	B-1
C.	ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS	C-1

LIST OF FIGURES

2-1	Levels of Significant Exposure to Chloroform—Inhalation	25
2-2	Levels of Significant Exposure to Chloroform—Oral	66
2-3	Metabolic Pathways of Chloroform Biotransformation	109
2-4	Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for Hypothetical Chemical Substance	116
2-5	Parameters used in the Corley PBPK Model	120
2-6	Existing Information on Health Effects of Chloroform	167
5-1	Frequency of NPL Sites With Chloroform Contamination	191

LIST OF TABLES

2-1	Levels of Significant Exposure to Chloroform—Inhalation	13
2-2	Levels of Significant Exposure to Chloroform—Oral	47
2-3	Levels of Significant Exposure to Chloroform—Dermal	99
2-4	Parameters Used in the Corley PBPK Model	121
2-5	Genotoxicity of Chloroform <i>In Vitro</i>	150
2-6	Genotoxicity of Chloroform <i>In Vivo</i>	151
3-1	Chemical Identity of Chloroform	178
3-2	Physical and Chemical Properties of Chloroform	179
4-1	U.S. Production of Chloroform	182
4-2	Facilities That Manufacture or Process Chloroform	184
5-1	Releases to the Environment From Facilities That Manufacture or Process Chloroform	192
6-1	Analytical Methods for Determining Chloroform in Biological Samples	218
6-2	Analytical Methods for Determining Chloroform in Environmental Samples	221
7-1	Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Chloroform	235

