

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
RDX**

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

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DISCLAIMER

Use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Public Health Service, or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

UPDATE STATEMENT

A draft for public comment Toxicological Profile for RDX was released in 2010. This present edition supersedes any previously released draft or final profile.

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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Division of Toxicology and Environmental Medicine/Applied Toxicology Branch
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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 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; more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information. 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 toxic 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. We plan to revise these documents in response to public comments and as additional data become available. Therefore, we encourage comments that will make the toxicological profile series of the greatest use.



Christopher J. Portier, Ph.D.
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QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by type of health effect (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by route of exposure, and by length of exposure (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

- Section 1.6** **How Can (Chemical X) Affect Children?**
- Section 1.7** **How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to (Chemical X)?**
- Section 3.7** **Children's Susceptibility**
- Section 6.6** **Exposures of Children**

Other Sections of Interest:

- Section 3.8** **Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect**
 - Section 3.11** **Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects**
-

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) or 1-888-232-6348 (TTY) **Fax:** (770) 488-4178
E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental*

Hazards; Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures; Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. Contact: NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. Contact: NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. Contact: NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. Contact: AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. Contact: ACOEM, 25 Northwest Point Boulevard, Suite 700, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1030 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Data Needs Review. The Applied Toxicology Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.
4. Green Border Review. Green Border review assures the consistency with ATSDR policy.

PEER REVIEW

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

1. Ping Gong, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, SpecPro, Inc., Vicksburg, Mississippi;
2. Sam Kacew, Ph.D., Associate Director of Toxicology, McLaughlin Centre for Population Health Risk Assessment, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario; and
3. Sharon A. Meyer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Toxicology, College of Health Sciences, University of Louisiana at Monroe, Monroe, Louisiana.

These experts collectively have knowledge of RDX'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.

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.

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CONTENTS

DISCLAIMER	ii
UPDATE STATEMENT	iii
FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.....	vi
CONTRIBUTORS	viii
PEER REVIEW	ix
CONTENTS.....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF TABLES	xvii
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT.....	1
1.1 WHAT IS RDX?.....	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO RDX WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT?.....	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO RDX?	2
1.4 HOW CAN RDX ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	3
1.5 HOW CAN RDX AFFECT MY HEALTH?	3
1.6 HOW CAN RDX AFFECT CHILDREN?	4
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO RDX?	4
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO RDX?.....	5
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?.....	5
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?.....	6
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	9
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO RDX IN THE UNITED STATES.....	9
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	10
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs).....	12
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	21
3.1 INTRODUCTION	21
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE.....	21
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	22
3.2.1.1 Death	22
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects.....	22
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	24
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	24
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects.....	25
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects.....	25
3.2.1.7 Cancer	25
3.2.2 Oral Exposure	25
3.2.2.1 Death.....	25
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects.....	49
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	53
3.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	53
3.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects.....	55

3.2.2.6	Developmental Effects.....	56
3.2.2.7	Cancer	57
3.2.3	Dermal Exposure.....	58
3.2.3.1	Death.....	58
3.2.3.2	Systemic Effects.....	58
3.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	62
3.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	62
3.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects.....	62
3.2.3.6	Developmental Effects.....	62
3.2.3.7	Cancer	62
3.3	GENOTOXICITY.....	62
3.4	TOXICOKINETICS	65
3.4.1	Absorption.....	65
3.4.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	65
3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	65
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure.....	66
3.4.2	Distribution	67
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	67
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	67
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure.....	68
3.4.3	Metabolism	68
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion	69
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	69
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	69
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure.....	70
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	70
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	78
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	78
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	79
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations.....	81
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	82
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	83
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT.....	84
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to RDX.....	85
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by RDX	86
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS.....	86
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	87
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	87
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	87
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden.....	88
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects.....	88
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	88
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of RDX.....	88
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs	90
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies.....	97
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION.....	99
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY	99
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	99

5. PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	103
5.1 PRODUCTION	103
5.2 IMPORT/EXPORT	104
5.3 USE	104
5.4 DISPOSAL	104
6. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	107
6.1 OVERVIEW	107
6.2 RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	109
6.2.1 Air	109
6.2.2 Water	109
6.2.3 Soil	110
6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	110
6.3.1 Transport and Partitioning	110
6.3.2 Transformation and Degradation	112
6.3.2.1 Air	112
6.3.2.2 Water	112
6.3.2.3 Sediment and Soil	115
6.4 LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	116
6.4.1 Air	116
6.4.2 Water	116
6.4.3 Sediment and Soil	118
6.4.4 Other Environmental Media	119
6.5 GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	119
6.6 EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	120
6.7 POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	121
6.8 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	121
6.8.1 Identification of Data Needs	122
6.8.2 Ongoing Studies	125
7. ANALYTICAL METHODS	127
7.1 BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	128
7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	131
7.3 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	140
7.3.1 Identification of Data Needs	140
7.3.2 Ongoing Studies	141
8. REGULATIONS, ADVISORIES, AND GUIDELINES	143
9. REFERENCES	147
10. GLOSSARY	167
APPENDICES	
A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS	A-1
B. USER'S GUIDE	B-1
C. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS	C-1
D. INDEX	D-1

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LIST OF FIGURES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to RDX – Oral	44
3-2. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance.....	72
3-3. Existing Information on Health Effects of RDX	89
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with RDX Contamination.....	108

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LIST OF TABLES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to RDX – Oral	26
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to RDX – Dermal	60
3-3. Genotoxicity of RDX <i>In Vitro</i>	63
3-4. Parameter Values for Sweeney et al. (2012) PBPK Model of RDX in Rats and Humans	74
4-1. Chemical Identity of RDX.....	100
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of RDX.....	101
6-1. Ongoing Studies on RDX.....	126
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining RDX in Biological Materials.....	129
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining RDX in Environmental Samples	132
7-3. Ongoing Studies on RDX.....	142
8-1. Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to RDX.....	144