

APPENDIX A. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVEL WORKSHEETS

MRLs for creosote, including wood creosote, coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles, cannot be determined because available data are insufficient for exposures of all durations (acute, intermediate, chronic) via any route (inhalation, oral, dermal). Creosote is a complex mixture originating from high temperature treatments of coal tar and beechwood or occurring in the resin of the creosote bush. About 300 chemicals have been identified in coal tar creosote, and there could be as many as 10,000 other chemicals present in the mixture. Creosote derived from plants is composed of various organic compounds including phenols, cresols, and guaiacol. Additionally, wood creosote and coal tar product mixtures have highly variable compositions and the individual components do not always share the same mode of action. The mixtures' composition is dependent on the sources and preparation parameters of coal tar creosote and, as a result, the creosote components are rarely consistent in their type and concentration. Hence, toxicological evaluations of one creosote sample, for instance, is most likely inadequate for extrapolation to other creosote samples, unless their compositions are similar.

MRLs are derived when reliable and sufficient data exist to identify the target organ(s) of effect or the most sensitive health effect(s) for a specific duration for a given route of exposure. An MRL is an estimate of the daily human exposure to a hazardous substance that is likely to be without appreciable risk of adverse noncancer health effects over a specified route and duration of exposure. MRLs are based on noncancer health effects only; cancer effects are not considered. These substance-specific estimates, which are intended to serve as screening levels, are used by ATSDR health assessors to identify contaminants and potential health effects that may be of concern at hazardous waste sites. It is important to note that MRLs are not intended to define clean-up or action levels.

MRLs are derived for hazardous substances using the NOAEL/uncertainty factor approach. They are below levels that might cause adverse health effects in the people most sensitive to such chemical-induced effects. MRLs are derived for acute (1–14 days), intermediate (15–364 days), and chronic (≥ 365 days) durations and for the oral and inhalation routes of exposure. Currently, MRLs for the dermal route of exposure are not derived because ATSDR has not yet identified a method suitable for this route of exposure. MRLs are generally based on the most sensitive substance-induced endpoint considered to be of relevance to humans. LOAELs for serious health effects (such as irreparable damage to the liver or kidneys, or serious birth defects) are not used as a basis for establishing MRLs. Exposure to a level above the MRL does not mean that adverse health effects will occur.

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MRLs are intended only to serve as a screening tool to help public health professionals decide where to look more closely. They may also be viewed as a mechanism to identify those hazardous waste sites that are not expected to cause adverse health effects. Most MRLs contain a degree of uncertainty because of the lack of precise toxicological information on the people who might be most sensitive (e.g., infants, elderly, nutritionally or immunologically compromised) to the effects of hazardous substances. ATSDR uses a conservative (i.e., protective) approach to address this uncertainty consistent with the public health principle of prevention. Although human data are preferred, MRLs often must be based on animal studies because relevant human studies are lacking. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, ATSDR assumes that humans are more sensitive to the effects of hazardous substance than animals and that certain persons may be particularly sensitive. Thus, the resulting MRL may be as much as 100-fold below levels that have been shown to be nontoxic in laboratory animals.

Proposed MRLs undergo a rigorous review process: Health Effects/MRL Workgroup reviews within the Office of Innovation and Analytics, Toxicology Section, expert panel peer reviews, and agency-wide MRL Workgroup reviews, with participation from other federal agencies and comments from the public. They are subject to change as new information becomes available concomitant with updating the toxicological profiles. Thus, MRLs in the most recent toxicological profiles supersede previously published MRLs. For additional information regarding MRLs, please contact the Office of Innovation and Analytics, Toxicology Section, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1600 Clifton Road NE, Mailstop S106-5, Atlanta, Georgia 30329-4027.

This profile addresses the toxicological database for several creosote mixtures: wood creosote, coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles. These mixtures are composed of many individual compounds of varying physical and chemical characteristics and differ from each other with respect to their composition.

Coal tars are byproducts of the carbonization of coal to produce coke or natural gas. They are complex combinations of PAHs, phenols, heterocyclic oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen compounds. Coal tar creosotes are distillation products of coal tar. At least 75% of the coal tar creosote mixture is PAHs. Unlike the coal tars and coal tar creosotes, coal tar pitch is a residue produced during the distillation of coal tar. The pitch contains PAHs and their methyl and polymethyl derivatives, as well as heteronuclear compounds (AWPA 1988). Volatile components of the coal tar pitch can be given off during operations involving coal tar pitch, including transporting, and in the coke, aluminum, and steel industries (Bender et al. 1988; Mazumdar et al. 1975; NIOSH 1983; Rønneberg 1995; Rønneberg and Anderson 1995). Coal tar

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creosote, coal tar, and coal tar products are used as wood preservatives, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and disinfectants (EPA 1981a, 1984).

Wood creosotes are derived from beechwood (*Fagus*, referred as beechwood creosote) and the resin from leaves of the creosote bush (*Larrea*, referred as creosote bush resin). Wood creosote consists mainly of phenol, cresols, guaiacol, xylol, and creosol. Creosote bush resin consists of phenolic (e.g., flavonoids and nordihydroguaiaretic acid), neutral (e.g., waxes), basic (e.g., alkaloids), and acidic (e.g., phenolic acids) compounds. The phenolic portion comprises 83–91% of the total resin. Nordihydroguaiaretic acid accounts for 5–10% of the dry weight of the leaves (Leonforte 1986).

Although wood creosote and coal tar creosote have some components in common, such as phenols, the differences in composition are pronounced enough to assume with reasonable certainty that they will have different toxicological properties. For the purposes of this profile, the creosote mixtures have been grouped into coal tar products (coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles) and wood creosotes (creosote bush and beechwood creosote).

Rationale for Not Deriving an MRL: When evaluating health effect data for creosote, it is important to consider that the composition of a particular creosote mixture, although referred to by specific name (e.g., wood creosote or coal tar creosote), is not consistent because the components and properties of the mixture depend on the temperature of the destructive distillation (carbonization) and on the nature of the carbon-containing material used as a feedstock for combustion. Creosote is a complex mixture originating from high temperature treatments of coal tar and beechwood or occurring in the resin of the creosote bush. About 300 chemicals have been identified in coal tar creosote, and there could be as many as 10,000 other chemicals present in the mixture. Creosote derived from plants is composed of various organic compounds including phenols, cresols, and guaiacol. Additionally, wood creosote and coal tar product mixtures have highly variable compositions and the individual components do not always share the same mode of action. The mixtures' composition is dependent on the sources and preparation parameters of coal tar creosote and, as a result, the creosote components are rarely consistent in their type and concentration. Thus, comparisons across studies are problematic, as toxicological evaluations of one creosote sample, for instance, is most likely inadequate for extrapolation to other creosote samples, unless their compositions are similar. This is demonstrated by inconsistent results observed in studies evaluating the same class of compounds; a single LOAEL value may not be representative for a class of compounds. Thus, derivation of an MRL based on single study or group of studies may not be protective for other exposures. Therefore, ATSDR elected not to derive MRLs for creosote, including wood creosote, coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles.

APPENDIX B. LITERATURE SEARCH FRAMEWORK FOR CREOSOTE

The objective of the toxicological profile is to evaluate the potential for human exposure and the potential health hazards associated with inhalation, oral, or dermal/ocular exposure to creosote.

B.1 LITERATURE SEARCH AND SCREEN

A literature search and screen were conducted to identify studies examining health effects, toxicokinetics, mechanisms of action, susceptible populations, biomarkers, chemical interactions, physical and chemical properties, production, use, environmental fate, environmental releases, and environmental and biological monitoring data for creosote. ATSDR primarily focused on peer-reviewed articles without language restrictions. Foreign language studies are reviewed based on available English-language abstracts and/or tables (or summaries in regulatory assessments, such as International Agency for Research on Cancer [IARC] documents). If the study appears critical for hazard identification or MRL derivation, translation into English is requested. Non-peer-reviewed studies that were considered relevant to the assessment of the health effects of creosote have undergone peer review by at least three ATSDR-selected experts who have been screened for conflict of interest. The inclusion criteria used to identify relevant studies examining the health effects of creosote are presented in Table B-1.

Table B-1. Inclusion Criteria for the Literature Search and Screen

Health Effects

Species

Human

Laboratory mammals

Route of exposure

Inhalation

Oral

Dermal (or ocular)

Parenteral (these studies will be considered supporting data)

Health outcome

Death

Systemic effects

Body weight effects

Respiratory effects

Cardiovascular effects

Gastrointestinal effects

Hematological effects

Musculoskeletal effects

Hepatic effects

Renal effects

Dermal effects

Ocular effects

Endocrine effects

Immunological effects

Neurological effects

Reproductive effects

Table B-1. Inclusion Criteria for the Literature Search and Screen

Developmental effects
Other noncancer effects
Cancer
Toxicokinetics
Absorption
Distribution
Metabolism
Excretion
PBPK models
Biomarkers
Biomarkers of exposure
Biomarkers of effect
Interactions with other chemicals
Potential for human exposure
Releases to the environment
Air
Water
Soil
Environmental fate
Transport and partitioning
Transformation and degradation
Environmental monitoring
Air
Water
Sediment and soil
Other media
Biomonitoring
General populations
Occupation populations

B.1.1 Literature Search

The current literature search was intended to update the Draft Toxicological Profile for Creosote released for public comment in 2023; thus, the literature search was restricted to studies published between November 2020 and November 2023. The following main databases were searched in November 2023:

- PubMed
- National Technical Reports Library (NTRL)
- Scientific and Technical Information Network's TOXCENTER

The search strategy used the chemical names, Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers, synonyms, Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) headings, and keywords for creosote. The query strings used for the literature search are presented in Table B-2.

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The search was augmented by searching the Toxic Substances Control Act Test Submissions (TSCATS), NTP website, and National Institute of Health Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools Expenditures and Results (NIH RePORTER) databases using the queries presented in Table B-3. Additional databases were searched in the creation of various tables and figures, such as the TRI Explorer, the Substance Priority List (SPL) resource page, and other items as needed. Regulations applicable to creosote were identified by searching international and U.S. agency websites and documents.

Review articles were identified and used for the purpose of providing background information and identifying additional references. ATSDR also identified reports from the grey literature, which included unpublished research reports, technical reports from government agencies, conference proceedings and abstracts, and theses and dissertations.

Table B-2. Database Query Strings

Database	search date	Query string
PubMed		
11/2023		(("Creosote"[mh] OR "Coal Tar"[mh] OR 8021-39-4[rn] OR 8007-45-2[rn] OR 8001-58-9[rn] OR 65996-93-2[rn]) AND 2020/11/01:3000[mhda]) OR (("alquitran, hulla"[tw] OR "AquaTar"[tw] OR "Brick oil"[tw] OR "Carbo-cort"[tw] OR "Coal tar"[tw] OR "Coal tars"[tw] OR "Coke-oven tar"[tw] OR "Coking tar"[tw] OR "Creosote"[tw] OR "Creosotes"[tw] OR "Creosotum"[tw] OR "Fototar"[tw] OR "Impervotar"[tw] OR "Ionil-T"[tw] OR "KC 261"[tw] OR "KOHLENTEER"[tw] OR "Lavatar"[tw] OR "Liquid pitch oil"[tw] OR "Naphthalene oil"[tw] OR "Oil pitch"[tw] OR "Particulate polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons"[tw] OR "Picis carbonis"[tw] OR "Pitch, coal tar"[tw] OR "Pixaibol"[tw] OR "Polytar bath"[tw] OR "Preserv-O-sote"[tw] OR "Sakresote 100"[tw] OR "STEINKOHLENTEER"[tw] OR "TAR LIQUID"[tw] OR "Tar, coal"[tw] OR "Tar, coking"[tw] OR "Tarcron 180"[tw] OR "Tarcron 180L"[tw] OR "Tarcron 230"[tw] OR "Teer, Kohlen-"[tw] OR "Vanseb-T"[tw] OR "Wash oil"[tw] OR "Zetar"[tw] OR ("PPAH"[tw] AND (particl* OR particul* OR hydrocarbon*)) OR "tar distillates"[tw] OR "Tar oil"[tw] OR "Tar oils"[tw] OR "Wood tar"[tw]) AND (2020/11/01:3000[edat] OR 2020/11/01:3000[crdat]))
NTRL		
11/2023	Date Published 2020 to 2023 Searched in Title or Keyword	"alquitran, hulla" OR "AquaTar" OR "Brick oil" OR "Carbo-cort" OR "Coal tar" OR "Coal tars" OR "Coke-oven tar" OR "Coking tar" OR "Creosote" OR "Creosotes" OR "Creosotum" OR "Fototar" OR "Impervotar" OR "Ionil-T" OR "KC 261" OR "KOHLENTEER" OR "Lavatar" OR "Liquid pitch oil" OR "Naphthalene oil" OR "Oil pitch" OR "Particulate polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" OR "Picis carbonis" OR "Pitch, coal tar" OR "Pixaibol" OR "Polytar bath" OR "Preserv-O-sote" OR "Sakresote 100" OR "STEINKOHLENTEER" OR "TAR LIQUID" OR "Tar, coal" OR "Tar, coking" OR "Tarcron 180" OR "Tarcron 180L" OR "Tarcron 230" OR "Teer, Kohlen-" OR "Vanseb-T" OR "Wash oil" OR "Zetar" OR "PPAH" OR "tar distillates" OR "Tar oil" OR "Tar oils" OR "Wood tar"
Toxcenter		
11/2023	FILE 'TOXCENTER' ENTERED AT 13:52:12 ON 17 NOV 2023 CHARGED TO COST=EH038.09.02.LB.05	L1 1340 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER 8021-39-4 OR 8007-45-2 OR 8001-58-9 OR 65996-93-2 L2 8855 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER "ALQUITRAN, HULLA" OR "AQUATAR" OR "BRICK OIL" OR "CARBO-CORT" OR "COAL TAR" OR "COAL TARS" OR "COKE-OVEN

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Table B-2. Database Query Strings

Database search date	Query string
	TAR" OR "COKING TAR" OR "CREOSOTE" OR "CREOSOTES" OR "CREOSOTU M" OR "FOTOTAR" OR "IMPERVOTAR" OR "IONIL-T" OR "KC 261" OR "KOHLENTEER" OR "LAVATAR"
L3	325 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER "LIQUID PITCH OIL" OR "NAPHTHALENE OIL" OR "OIL PITCH" OR "PARTICULATE POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS" OR "PICIS CARBONIS" OR "PITCH, COAL TAR" OR "PIXALBOL" OR "POLYTAR BATH" OR "PRESERV-O-SOTE" OR "SAKRESOTE 100" OR "STEINKOHLENTEER"
L4	237 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER "TAR LIQUID" OR "TAR, COAL" OR "TAR, COKING" OR "TARCRON 180" OR "TARCRON 180L" OR "TARCRON 230" OR "TEER, KOHLEN-" OR "VANSEB-T" OR "WASH OIL" OR "ZETAR"
L5	81 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER PPAH AND (PARTICL? OR PARTICUL? OR HYDROCARB ON?)
L6	1069 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER "TAR OIL" OR "TAR OILS" OR "WOOD TAR" OR "TAR DISTILLATES"
L7	10202 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L1 OR L2 OR L3 OR L4 OR L5 OR L6
L8	8288 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L7 NOT PATENT/DT
L9	411 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L8 AND ED>20201031 ACTIVATE TOXQUERY/Q -----
L10	QUE (CHRONIC OR IMMUNOTOX? OR NEUROTOX? OR TOXICOKIN? OR BIOMARKER? OR NEUROLOG?)
L11	QUE (PHARMACOKIN? OR SUBCHRONIC OR PBPK OR EPIDEMIOLOGY/ST,CT, IT)
L12	QUE (ACUTE OR SUBACUTE OR LD50# OR LD(W)50 OR LC50# OR LC(W)50)
L13	QUE (TOXICITY OR ADVERSE OR POISONING)/ST,CT,IT
L14	QUE (INHAL? OR PULMON? OR NASAL? OR LUNG? OR RESPIR?)
L15	QUE ((OCCUPATION? OR WORKPLACE? OR WORKER?) AND EXPOS?)
L16	QUE (ORAL OR ORALLY OR INGEST? OR GAVAGE? OR DIET OR DIETS OR DIETARY OR DRINKING(W)WATER?)
L17	QUE (MAXIMUM AND CONCENTRATION? AND (ALLOWABLE OR PERMISSIBLE))
L18	QUE (ABORT? OR ABNORMALIT? OR EMBRYO? OR CLEFT? OR FETUS?)
L19	QUE (FOETUS? OR FETAL? OR FOETAL? OR FERTIL? OR MALFORM? OR OVUM?)
L20	QUE (OVA OR OVARY OR PLACENTA? OR PREGNAN? OR PRENATAL?)
L21	QUE (PERINATAL? OR POSTNATAL? OR REPRODUC? OR STERIL? OR TERATOGEN?)
L22	QUE (SPERM OR SPERMAC? OR SPERMAG? OR SPERMATI? OR SPERMAS? OR SPERMATOB? OR SPERMATOC? OR SPERMATOG?)

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Table B-2. Database Query Strings

Database search date	Query string
L23	QUE (SPERMATOI? OR SPERMATOL? OR SPERMATOR? OR SPERMATOX? OR SPERMATOOZ? OR SPERMATU? OR SPERMI? OR SPERMO?)
L24	QUE (NEONAT? OR NEWBORN? OR DEVELOPMENT OR DEVELOPMENTAL?)
L25	QUE (ENDOCRIN? AND DISRUPT?)
L26	QUE (ZYGOTE? OR CHILD OR CHILDREN OR ADOLESCEN? OR INFANT?)
L27	QUE (WEAN? OR OFFSPRING OR AGE(W)FACTOR?)
L28	QUE (DERMAL? OR DERMIS OR SKIN OR EPIDERM? OR CUTANEOUS?)
L29	QUE (CARCINO? OR COCARCINO? OR CANCER? OR PRECANCER? OR NEOPLAS?)
L30	QUE (TUMOR? OR TUMOUR? OR ONCOGEN? OR LYMPHOMA? OR CARCINOM?)
L31	QUE (GENETOX? OR GENOTOX? OR MUTAGEN? OR GENETIC(W)TOXIC?)
L32	QUE (NEPHROTOX? OR HEPATOTOX?)
L33	QUE (ENDOCRIN? OR ESTROGEN? OR ANDROGEN? OR HORMON?)
L34	QUE (OCCUPATION? OR WORKER? OR WORKPLACE? OR EPIDEM?)
L35	QUE L10 OR L11 OR L12 OR L13 OR L14 OR L15 OR L16 OR L17 OR L18 OR L19 OR L20 OR L21 OR L22 OR L23 OR L24 OR L25 OR L26 OR L27 OR L28 OR L29 OR L30 OR L31 OR L32 OR L33 OR L34
L36	QUE (RAT OR RATS OR MOUSE OR MICE OR GUINEA(W)PIG? OR MURIDAE OR DOG OR DOGS OR RABBIT? OR HAMSTER? OR PIG OR PIGS OR SWINE OR PORCINE OR MONKEY? OR MACAQUE?)
L37	QUE (MARMOSSET? OR FERRET? OR GERBIL? OR RODENT? OR LAGOMORPHA OR BABOON? OR CANINE OR CAT OR CATS OR FELINE OR MURINE)
L38	QUE L35 OR L36 OR L37
L39	QUE (NONHUMAN MAMMALS)/ORGN
L40	QUE L38 OR L39
L41	QUE (HUMAN OR HUMANS OR HOMINIDAE OR MAMMALS OR MAMMAL? OR PRIMATES OR PRIMATE?)
L42	QUE L40 OR L41
L43	234 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L9 AND L42
L44	70 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L43 AND MEDLINE/FS
L45	164 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L43 NOT MEDLINE/FS
L46	184 DUP REM L44 L45 (50 DUPLICATES REMOVED)
L*** DEL	70 S L43 AND MEDLINE/FS
L*** DEL	70 S L43 AND MEDLINE/FS
L47	70 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L46
L*** DEL	164 S L43 NOT MEDLINE/FS
L*** DEL	164 S L43 NOT MEDLINE/FS
L48	114 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER L46
L49	114 SEA FILE=TOXCENTER (L47 OR L48) NOT MEDLINE/FS

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Table B-2. Database Query Strings

Database	search date	Query string
		D SCAN L49

Table B-3. Strategies to Augment the Literature Search

Source	Query and number screened when available
TSCATS via ChemView	
11/2023	Compounds searched: 8021-39-4; 8007-45-2; 8001-58-9; 65996-93-2
NTP	
11/2023	Limited to 2020-present or ROC/Testing Status/CEBS "Creosote" "Creosotes" "Coal tar" "Coal tars" "8021-39-4" "8007-45-2" "8001-58-9" "65996-93-2" "alquitran, hulla" "AquaTar" "AWPA 1" "Brick oil" "Carbo-cort" "Coke-oven tar" "Coking tar" "Creosotum" "Fototar" "Impervotar" "Ionil-T" "KC 261" "KOHLENTEER" "Lavatar" "Liquid pitch oil" "Naphthalene oil" "Oil pitch" "Particulate polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" "Picis carbonis" "Pitch, coal tar" "Pixalbol" "Polytar bath" "Preserv-O-sote" "Sakresote 100" "STEINKOHLLENTEER" "TAR LIQUID" "Tar, coal" "Tar, coking" "Tarcron 180" "Tarcron 180L" "Tarcron 230" "Teer, Kohlen-" "Vanseb-T" "Wash oil" "Zetar" "PPAH" "Tar oil" "Tar oils" "Wood tar" "tar distillates"
Regulations.gov	
11/2023	Limited to posted date 11/1/2020-present; Dockets/Notices "8021-39-4" "8007-45-2" "8001-58-9" "65996-93-2" creosote "coal tar"
NPIRS	
11/2023	Limited to submission date 01/01/2020-11/17/2023 Active Ingredient: Creosote, wood (CAS #: 8021-39-4) (PC Code: 25002), Coal tar (CAS #: 8007-45-2) (PC Code: 22003), Coal tar creosote (CAS #: 8001-58-9) (PC Code: 25004), Coal Tar Pitch >351 deg.C (AWPI) (CAS #: 65996-93-2) (PC Code: 128939)
NIH RePORTER	
02/2024	Search Criteria: Fiscal Year: Active Projects; Text Search: "alquitran, hulla" OR "AquaTar" OR "Brick oil" OR "Carbo-cort" OR "Coal tar" OR "Coal tars" OR "Coke-oven tar" OR "Coking tar" OR "Creosote" OR "Creosotes" OR "Creosotum" OR "Fototar" OR "Impervotar" OR "Ionil-T" OR "KC 261" OR "KOHLENTEER" OR "Lavatar" OR "Liquid pitch oil" OR "Naphthalene oil" OR "Oil pitch" OR "Particulate polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons" OR "Picis carbonis" OR "Pitch, coal tar" OR "Pixalbol" OR "Polytar bath" OR "Preserv-O-sote" OR "Sakresote 100" OR "STEINKOHLLENTEER" OR "TAR LIQUID" OR "Tar, coal" OR "Tar, coking" OR "Tarcron 180" OR "Tarcron 180L" OR "Tarcron 230" OR "Teer, Kohlen-" OR "Vanseb-T"

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Table B-3. Strategies to Augment the Literature Search

Source	Query and number screened when available
	OR "Wash oil" OR "Zetar" OR "PPAH" OR "tar distillates" OR "Tar oil" OR "Tar oils" OR "Wood tar" (advanced) Limit to: Project Title, Project Terms, Project Abstracts
Other	Identified throughout the assessment process

The 2023 results were:

- Number of records identified from PubMed, TOXLINE, and TOXCENTER (after duplicate removal): 339
- Number of records identified from other strategies: 38
- Total number of records to undergo literature screening: 377

B.1.2 Literature Screening

A two-step process was used to screen the literature search to identify relevant studies on creosote:

- Title and abstract screen
- Full text screen

Title and Abstract Screen. Within the reference library, titles and abstracts were screened manually for relevance. Studies that were considered relevant (see Table B-1 for inclusion criteria) were moved to the second step of the literature screening process. Studies were excluded when the title and abstract clearly indicated that the study was not relevant to the toxicological profile.

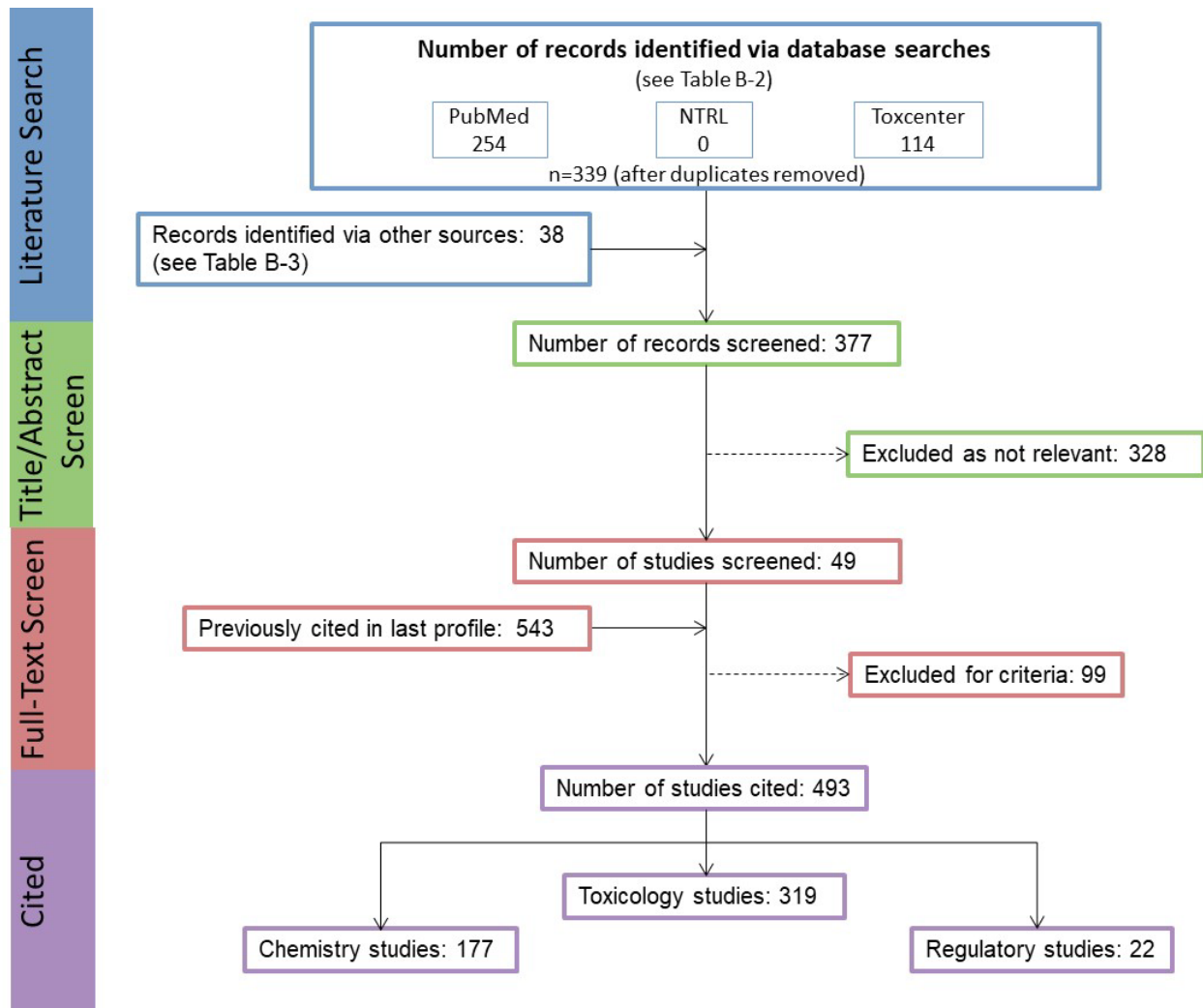
- Number of titles and abstracts screened: 377
- Number of studies considered relevant and moved to the next step: 49

Full Text Screen. The second step in the literature screening process was a full text review of individual studies considered relevant in the title and abstract screen step. Each study was reviewed to determine whether it was relevant for inclusion in the toxicological profile.

- Number of studies undergoing full text review: 49
- Number of studies cited in the pre-public draft of the toxicological profile: 543
- Total number of studies cited in the profile: 493

A summary of the results of the literature search and screening is presented in Figure B-1.

Figure B-1. November 2023 Literature Search Results and Screen for Creosote



APPENDIX C. FRAMEWORK FOR ATSDR'S SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF HEALTH EFFECTS DATA FOR CREOSOTE

To increase the transparency of ATSDR's process of identifying, evaluating, synthesizing, and interpreting the scientific evidence on the health effects associated with exposure to creosote, ATSDR utilized a slight modification of NTP's Office of Health Assessment and Translation (OHAT) systematic review methodology (NTP 2013, 2015; Rooney et al. 2014). ATSDR's framework is an eight-step process for systematic review with the goal of identifying the potential health hazards of exposure to creosote:

- Step 1. Problem Formulation
- Step 2. Literature Search and Screen for Health Effects Studies
- Step 3. Extract Data from Health Effects Studies
- Step 4. Identify Potential Health Effect Outcomes of Concern
- Step 5. Assess the Risk of Bias for Individual Studies
- Step 6. Rate the Confidence in the Body of Evidence for Each Relevant Outcome
- Step 7. Translate Confidence Rating into Level of Evidence of Health Effects
- Step 8. Integrate Evidence to Develop Hazard Identification Conclusions

C.1 PROBLEM FORMULATION

The objective of the toxicological profile and this systematic review was to identify the potential health hazards associated with inhalation, oral, or dermal/ocular exposure to creosote. The inclusion criteria used to identify relevant studies examining the health effects of creosote are presented in Table C-1.

Data from human and laboratory animal studies were considered relevant for addressing this objective. Human studies were divided into two broad categories: observational epidemiology studies and controlled exposure studies. The observational epidemiology studies were further divided: cohort studies (retrospective and prospective studies), population studies (with individual data or aggregate data), and case-control studies.

Table C-1. Inclusion Criteria for Identifying Health Effects Studies

Species
Human
Laboratory mammals
Route of exposure
Inhalation
Oral
Dermal (or ocular)
Parenteral (these studies will be considered supporting data)
Health outcome
Death
Systemic effects
Body weight effects
Respiratory effects
Cardiovascular effects

Table C-1. Inclusion Criteria for Identifying Health Effects Studies

Gastrointestinal effects
 Hematological effects
 Musculoskeletal effects
 Hepatic effects
 Renal effects
 Dermal effects
 Ocular effects
 Endocrine effects
 Immunological effects
 Neurological effects
 Reproductive effects
 Developmental effects
 Other noncancer effects
 Cancer

C.2 LITERATURE SEARCH AND SCREEN FOR HEALTH EFFECTS STUDIES

As noted in Appendix B, the current literature search was intended to update the Draft Toxicological Profile for Creosote released for public comment in 2023; thus, the literature search was restricted to studies published between November 2000 and November 2023. See Appendix B for the databases searched and the search strategy.

A total of 377 records relevant to all sections of the toxicological profile were identified (after duplicate removal).

C.2.1 Literature Screening

As described in Appendix B, a two-step process was used to screen the literature search to identify relevant studies examining the health effects of creosote.

Title and Abstract Screen. In the Title and Abstract Screen step, 377 records were reviewed; there were no new documents that were considered to meet the health effects inclusion criteria in Table C-1 and were moved to the next step in the process.

Full Text Screen. In the second step in the literature screening process for the systematic review, a full text review of 155 health effect documents (documents cited in older versions of the profile) was performed. From those 155 documents, 193 studies were considered for inclusion in the qualitative review.

C.3 EXTRACT DATA FROM HEALTH EFFECTS STUDIES

Relevant data extracted from the individual studies selected for inclusion in the systematic review were collected in customized data forms. A summary of the type of data extracted from each study is presented in Table C-2. For references that included more than one experiment or species, data extraction records were created for each experiment or species.

Table C-2. Data Extracted from Individual Studies

Citation
Chemical form
Route of exposure (e.g., inhalation, oral, dermal)
Specific route (e.g., gavage in oil, drinking water)
Species
Strain
Exposure duration category (e.g., acute, intermediate, chronic)
Exposure duration
Frequency of exposure (e.g., 6 hours/day, 5 days/week)
Exposure length
Number of animals or subjects per sex per group
Dose/exposure levels
Parameters monitored
Description of the study design and method
Summary of calculations used to estimate doses (if applicable)
Summary of the study results
Reviewer's comments on the study
Outcome summary (one entry for each examined outcome)
No-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) value
Lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL) value
Effect observed at the LOAEL value

A summary of the extracted data for each study is presented in the Supplemental Document for Creosote and overviews of the results of the inhalation, oral, and dermal exposure studies are presented in Sections 2.2–2.18 of the profile and in the Levels Significant Exposures tables in Section 2.1 of the profile (Tables 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, and 2-4, respectively).

C.4 IDENTIFY POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECT OUTCOMES OF CONCERN

Overviews of the potential health effect outcomes for coal tar products and wood creosotes identified in human and animal studies are presented in Tables C-3, C-4, C-5, and C-6 respectively. The available human studies are focused mainly on mortality and cancer following occupational exposure. Additional studies have reported respiratory, dermal, and hepatic effects. Animal studies have examined a number of endpoints following inhalation, oral, or dermal exposure, including cancer, and have reported body weight, respiratory, hematological, hepatic, reproductive, and developmental effects.

Studies were not carried through the systematic review process due to the complicated nature of creosote products. Coal tars products are complex mixtures of PAHs, phenols, heterocyclic oxygen, sulfur, and nitrogen compounds. Wood creosotes are derived from beechwood and the resin from leaves of the creosote bush. Beechwood creosote consists mainly of phenol, cresols, guaiacol, xylol, and creosol, while creosote bush resin consists of phenolic (e.g., flavonoids and nordihydroguaiaretic acid), neutral (e.g., waxes), basic (e.g., alkaloids), and acidic (e.g., phenolic acids) compounds.

When evaluating health effect data for creosote, it is important to consider the composition of a particular creosote mixture. Wood creosote and coal tar product mixtures have highly variable compositions and

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the individual components do not always share the same mode of action. The mixtures' composition is dependent on the sources and preparation parameters of coal tar creosote and, as a result, the creosote components are rarely consistent in their type and concentration. Thus, comparisons across studies are problematic, as toxicological evaluations of one creosote sample, for instance, is most likely inadequate for extrapolation to other creosote samples, unless their compositions are similar. This is demonstrated by inconsistent results observed in studies evaluating the same class of compounds; a single LOAEL value may not be representative for a class of compounds.

Therefore, ATSDR elected not to take the identified studies through the systematic review process for creosote, including wood creosote, coal tar creosote, coal tar, coal tar pitch, and coal tar pitch volatiles.

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Table C-4. Overview of the Health Outcomes for Creosote (Coal Tar Products) Evaluated in Experimental Animal Studies

	Body weight	Respiratory	Cardiovascular	Gastrointestinal	Hematological	Musculoskeletal	Hepatic	Renal	Dermal	Ocular	Endocrine	Immunological ^a	Neurological ^a	Reproductive ^a	Developmental	Other Noncancer	Cancer
Inhalation studies																	
Acute-duration	3 1	1 0					1 0	1 0			1 0	1 0	2 2		1 1		
Intermediate-duration	7 4	5 5	4 1	3 2	5 5		5 4	4 2		2 0	3 0	3 2	3 0	3 3			3 3
Chronic-duration	2 1																2 2
Oral studies																	
Acute-duration	11 4	1 0					6 0	4 2			2 0	1 0	2 2	5 0	5 5		
Intermediate-duration	5 0	2 0	2 0	4 2	2 0		2 0	2 0			2 0	2 0		2 0			1 1
Chronic-duration	2 0	2 0					2 2	2 0									2 2
Dermal studies																	
Acute-duration	4 2						2 0	2 0	2 2	3 3	2 0	2 0	3 0	2 0	2 2		
Intermediate-duration	4 0				1 0				1 0	1 0							15 13
Chronic-duration	1 0								1 1			1 1					7 7
Number of studies examining endpoint			0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10								
Number of studies reporting outcome			0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10								

^aNumber of studies examining endpoint includes study evaluating histopathology, but not evaluating function.

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Table C-5. Overview of the Health Outcomes for Creosote (Wood Creosotes) Evaluated in Human Studies

	Body weight	Respiratory	Cardiovascular	Gastrointestinal	Hematological	Musculoskeletal	Hepatic	Renal	Dermal	Ocular	Endocrine	Immunological	Neurological	Reproductive	Developmental	Other Noncancer	Cancer
Inhalation studies																	
Cohort																	
Case control																	
Population																	
Case series																	
Oral studies																	
Cohort																	
Case control																	
Population																	
Case series																	
Clinical trial																	
Dermal studies																	
Cohort																	
Case control																	
Population																	
Case series																	
Clinical trial																	
Number of studies examining endpoint			0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10								
Number of studies reporting outcome			0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10								

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Table C-6. Overview of the Health Outcomes for Creosote (Wood Creosotes) Evaluated in Experimental Animal Studies

	Body weight	Respiratory	Cardiovascular	Gastrointestinal	Hematological	Musculoskeletal	Hepatic	Renal	Dermal	Ocular	Endocrine	Immunological ^a	Neurological ^a	Reproductive ^a	Developmental	Other Noncancer	Cancer
Inhalation studies																	
Acute-duration																	
Intermediate-duration																	
Chronic-duration																	
Oral studies																	
Acute-duration	2						2				2		2				
	0						0				0		2				
Intermediate-duration	3	2	2		3		3	3			2	2	2	2			
	0	0	0		0		1	0			0	0	0	0			
Chronic-duration	3	3	3		3		3	3			3	3	2	3			3
	2	1	1		0		1	1			0	0	0	0			0
Dermal studies																	
Acute-duration																	
Intermediate-duration																	
Chronic-duration																	
Number of studies examining endpoint				0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10							
Number of studies reporting outcome				0	1	2	3	4	5-9	≥10							

^aNumber of studies examining endpoint includes study evaluating histopathology, but not evaluating function.

APPENDIX D. USER'S GUIDE

Chapter 1. Relevance to Public Health

This chapter provides an overview of U.S. exposures, a summary of health effects based on evaluations of existing toxicologic, epidemiologic, and toxicokinetic information, and an overview of the minimal risk levels. This is designed to present interpretive, weight-of-evidence discussions for human health endpoints by addressing the following questions:

1. What effects are known to occur in humans?
2. What effects observed in animals are likely to be of concern to humans?
3. What exposure conditions are likely to be of concern to humans, especially around hazardous waste sites?

Minimal Risk Levels (MRLs)

Where sufficient toxicologic information is available, ATSDR derives MRLs for inhalation and oral routes of entry at each duration of exposure (acute, intermediate, and chronic). These MRLs are not meant to support regulatory action, but to acquaint health professionals with exposure levels at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur in humans.

MRLs should help physicians and public health officials determine the safety of a community living near a hazardous substance emission, given the concentration of a contaminant in air or the estimated daily dose in water. MRLs are based largely on toxicological studies in animals and on reports of human occupational exposure.

MRL users should be familiar with the toxicologic information on which the number is based. Section 1.2, Summary of Health Effects, contains basic information known about the substance. Other sections, such as Section 3.2 Children and Other Populations that are Unusually Susceptible and Section 3.4 Interactions with Other Substances, provide important supplemental information.

MRL users should also understand the MRL derivation methodology. MRLs are derived using a modified version of the risk assessment methodology that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides (Barnes and Dourson 1988) to determine reference doses (RfDs) for lifetime exposure.

To derive an MRL, ATSDR generally selects the most sensitive endpoint which, in its best judgement, represents the most sensitive human health effect for a given exposure route and duration. ATSDR cannot make this judgement or derive an MRL unless information (quantitative or qualitative) is available for all potential systemic, neurological, and developmental effects. If this information and reliable quantitative data on the chosen endpoint are available, ATSDR derives an MRL using the most sensitive species (when information from multiple species is available) with the highest no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) that does not exceed any adverse effect levels. When a NOAEL is not available, a lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL) can be used to derive an MRL, and an uncertainty factor of 10 must be employed. Additional uncertainty factors of 10 must be used both for human variability to protect sensitive subpopulations (people who are most susceptible to the health effects caused by the substance) and for interspecies variability (extrapolation from animals to humans). In deriving an MRL, these individual uncertainty factors are multiplied together. The product is then divided into the inhalation concentration or oral dosage selected from the study. Uncertainty factors used in developing a

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substance-specific MRL are provided in the footnotes of the levels of significant exposure (LSE) tables that are provided in Chapter 2. Detailed discussions of the MRLs are presented in Appendix A.

Chapter 2. Health Effects

Tables and Figures for Levels of Significant Exposure (LSE)

Tables and figures are used to summarize health effects and illustrate graphically levels of exposure associated with those effects. These levels cover health effects observed at increasing dose concentrations and durations, differences in response by species and MRLs to humans for noncancer endpoints. The LSE tables and figures can be used for a quick review of the health effects and to locate data for a specific exposure scenario. The LSE tables and figures should always be used in conjunction with the text. All entries in these tables and figures represent studies that provide reliable, quantitative estimates of NOAELs, LOAELs, or Cancer Effect Levels (CELs).

The legends presented below demonstrate the application of these tables and figures. Representative examples of LSE tables and figures follow. The numbers in the left column of the legends correspond to the numbers in the example table and figure.

TABLE LEGEND

See Sample LSE Table (page D-5)

- (1) Route of exposure. One of the first considerations when reviewing the toxicity of a substance using these tables and figures should be the relevant and appropriate route of exposure. Typically, when sufficient data exist, three LSE tables and two LSE figures are presented in the document. The three LSE tables present data on the three principal routes of exposure (i.e., inhalation, oral, and dermal). LSE figures are limited to the inhalation and oral routes. Not all substances will have data on each route of exposure and will not, therefore, have all five of the tables and figures. Profiles with more than one chemical may have more LSE tables and figures.
- (2) Exposure period. Three exposure periods—acute (<15 days), intermediate (15–364 days), and chronic (≥ 365 days)—are presented within each relevant route of exposure. In this example, two oral studies of chronic-duration exposure are reported. For quick reference to health effects occurring from a known length of exposure, locate the applicable exposure period within the LSE table and figure.
- (3) Figure key. Each key number in the LSE table links study information to one or more data points using the same key number in the corresponding LSE figure. In this example, the study represented by key number 51 identified NOAELs and less serious LOAELs (also see the three "51R" data points in sample LSE Figure 2-X).
- (4) Species (strain) No./group. The test species (and strain), whether animal or human, are identified in this column. The column also contains information on the number of subjects and sex per group. Chapter 1, Relevance to Public Health, covers the relevance of animal data to human toxicity and Section 3.1, Toxicokinetics, contains any available information on comparative toxicokinetics. Although NOAELs and LOAELs are species specific, the levels are extrapolated to equivalent human doses to derive an MRL.
- (5) Exposure parameters/doses. The duration of the study and exposure regimens are provided in these columns. This permits comparison of NOAELs and LOAELs from different studies. In this case (key number 51), rats were orally exposed to "Chemical X" via feed for 2 years. For a more

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complete review of the dosing regimen, refer to the appropriate sections of the text or the original reference paper (i.e., Aida et al. 1992).

- (6) Parameters monitored. This column lists the parameters used to assess health effects. Parameters monitored could include serum (blood) chemistry (BC), biochemical changes (BI), body weight (BW), clinical signs (CS), developmental toxicity (DX), food intake (FI), gross necropsy (GN), hematology (HE), histopathology (HP), immune function (IX), lethality (LE), neurological function (NX), organ function (OF), ophthalmology (OP), organ weight (OW), reproductive function (RX), urinalysis (UR), and water intake (WI).
- (7) Endpoint. This column lists the endpoint examined. The major categories of health endpoints included in LSE tables and figures are death, body weight, respiratory, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, hematological, musculoskeletal, hepatic, renal, dermal, ocular, endocrine, immunological, neurological, reproductive, developmental, other noncancer, and cancer. "Other noncancer" refers to any effect (e.g., alterations in blood glucose levels) not covered in these systems. In the example of key number 51, three endpoints (body weight, hematological, and hepatic) were investigated.
- (8) NOAEL. A NOAEL is the highest exposure level at which no adverse effects were seen in the organ system studied. The body weight effect reported in key number 51 is a NOAEL at 25.5 mg/kg/day. NOAELs are not reported for cancer and death; with the exception of these two endpoints, this field is left blank if no NOAEL was identified in the study.
- (9) LOAEL. A LOAEL is the lowest dose used in the study that caused an adverse health effect. LOAELs have been classified into "Less Serious" and "Serious" effects. These distinctions help readers identify the levels of exposure at which adverse health effects first appear and the gradation of effects with increasing dose. A brief description of the specific endpoint used to quantify the adverse effect accompanies the LOAEL. Key number 51 reports a less serious LOAEL of 6.1 mg/kg/day for the hepatic system, which was used to derive a chronic exposure, oral MRL of 0.008 mg/kg/day (see footnote "c"). MRLs are not derived from serious LOAELs. A cancer effect level (CEL) is the lowest exposure level associated with the onset of carcinogenesis in experimental or epidemiologic studies. CELs are always considered serious effects. The LSE tables and figures do not contain NOAELs for cancer, but the text may report doses not causing measurable cancer increases. If no LOAEL/CEL values were identified in the study, this field is left blank.
- (10) Reference. The complete reference citation is provided in Chapter 8 of the profile.
- (11) Footnotes. Explanations of abbreviations or reference notes for data in the LSE tables are found in the footnotes. For example, footnote "c" indicates that the LOAEL of 6.1 mg/kg/day in key number 51 was used to derive an oral MRL of 0.008 mg/kg/day.

FIGURE LEGEND

See Sample LSE Figure (page D-6)

LSE figures graphically illustrate the data presented in the corresponding LSE tables. Figures help the reader quickly compare health effects according to exposure concentrations for particular exposure periods.

- (13) Exposure period. The same exposure periods appear as in the LSE table. In this example, health effects observed within the chronic exposure period are illustrated.

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- (14) Endpoint. These are the categories of health effects for which reliable quantitative data exist. The same health effect endpoints appear in the LSE table.
- (15) Levels of exposure. Concentrations or doses for each health effect in the LSE tables are graphically displayed in the LSE figures. Exposure concentration or dose is measured on the log scale "y" axis. Inhalation exposure is reported in mg/m³ or ppm and oral exposure is reported in mg/kg/day.
- (16) LOAEL. In this example, the half-shaded circle that is designated 51R identifies a LOAEL critical endpoint in the rat upon which a chronic oral exposure MRL is based. The key number 51 corresponds to the entry in the LSE table. The dashed descending arrow indicates the extrapolation from the exposure level of 6.1 mg/kg/day (see entry 51 in the sample LSE table) to the MRL of 0.008 mg/kg/day (see footnote "c" in the sample LSE table).
- (17) CEL. Key number 59R is one of studies for which CELs were derived. The diamond symbol refers to a CEL for the test species (rat). The number 59 corresponds to the entry in the LSE table.
- (18) Key to LSE figure. The key provides the abbreviations and symbols used in the figure.

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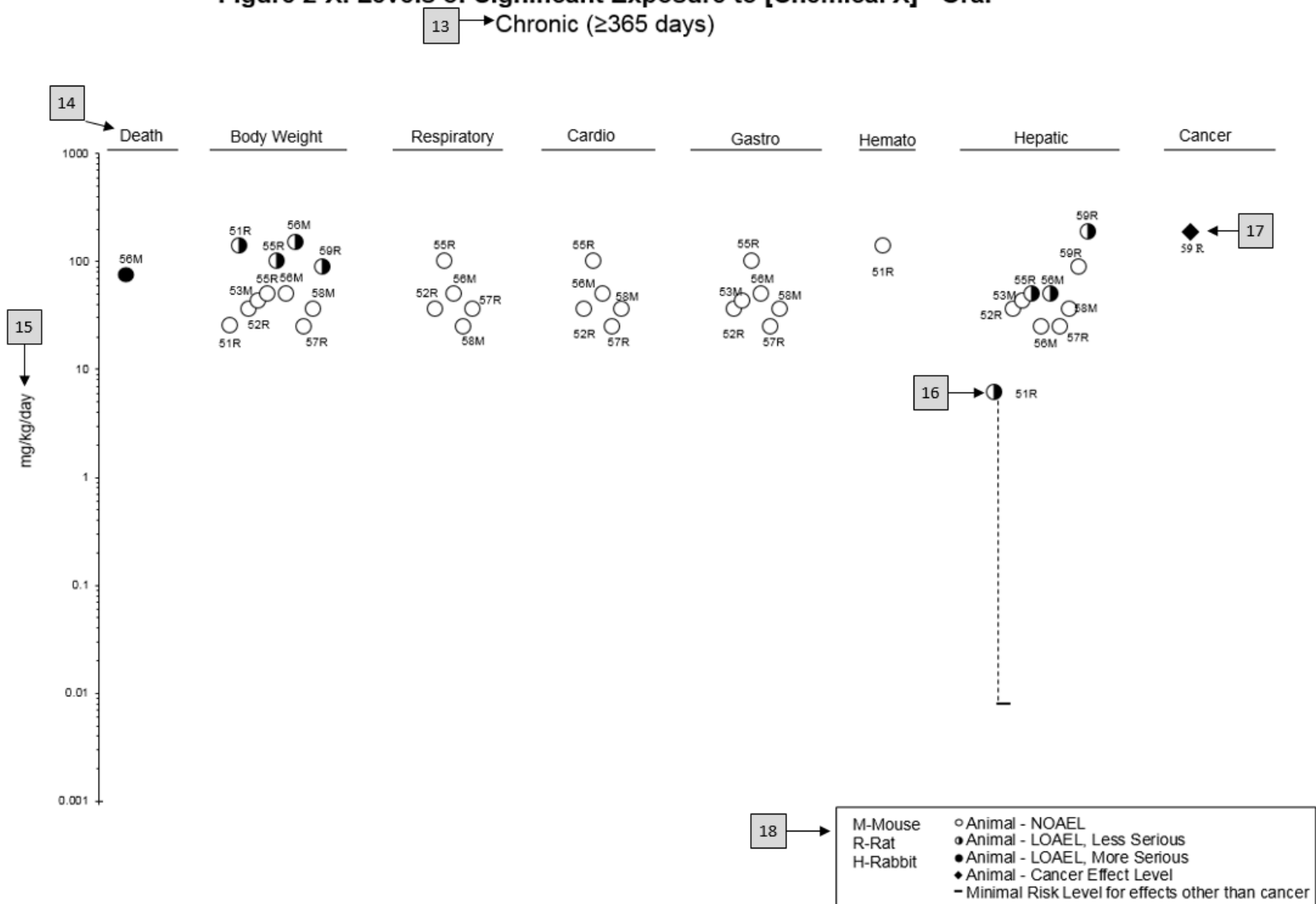
Table 2-X. Levels of Significant Exposure to [Chemical X] – Oral ← 1

Figure key ^a	Species (strain) No./group	Exposure parameters	Doses (mg/kg/day)	Parameters monitored	Endpoint	NOAEL (mg/kg/day)	Less serious LOAEL (mg/kg/day)	Serious LOAEL (mg/kg/day)	Effect
CHRONIC EXPOSURE									
51	Rat (Wistar) 40 M, 40 F	2 years (F)	M: 0, 6.1, 25.5, 138.0 F: 0, 8.0, 31.7, 168.4	CS, WI, BW, OW, HE, BC, HP	Bd wt Hemato Hepatic	25.5 138.0	138.0	6.1 ^c	Decreased body weight gain in males (23–25%) and females (31–39%) Increases in absolute and relative weights at ≥6.1/8.0 mg/kg/day after 12 months of exposure; fatty generation at ≥6.1 mg/kg/day in males and at ≥31.7 mg/kg/day in females, and granulomas in females at 31.7 and 168.4 mg/kg/day after 12, 18, or 24 months of exposure and in males at ≥6.1 mg/kg/day only after 24 months of exposure
Aida et al. 1992									
52	Rat (F344) 78 M	104 weeks (W)	0, 3.9, 20.6, 36.3	CS, BW, FI, BC, OW, HP	Hepatic Renal Endocr	36.3 20.6 36.3	36.3		Increased incidence of renal tubular cell hyperplasia
George et al. 2002									
59	Rat (Wistar) 58M, 58F	Lifetime (W)	M: 0, 90 F: 0, 190	BW, HP	Cancer		190 F		Increased incidence of hepatic neoplastic nodules in females only; no additional description of the tumors was provided
Tumasonis et al. 1985									

11 → ^aThe number corresponds to entries in Figure 2-x.
^bUsed to derive an acute-duration oral minimal risk level (MRL) of 0.1 mg/kg/day based on the BMDL₀₅ of 10 mg/kg/day and an uncertainty factor of 100 (10 for extrapolation from animals to humans and 10 for human variability).
^cUsed to derive a chronic-duration oral MRL of 0.008 mg/kg/day based on the BMDL₁₀ of 0.78 mg/kg/day and an uncertainty factor of 100 (10 for extrapolation from animals to humans and 10 for human variability).

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Figure 2-X. Levels of Significant Exposure to [Chemical X] - Oral



APPENDIX E. 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 may find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section provides an overview of exposure and health effects and evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health. A table listing minimal risk levels (MRLs) is also included in this chapter.

Chapter 2: Health Effects: Specific health effects identified in both human and animal studies are reported by type of health effect (e.g., death, hepatic, renal, immune, reproductive), route of exposure (e.g., inhalation, oral, dermal), and length of exposure (e.g., acute, intermediate, and chronic).

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting.

Pediatrics:

Section 3.2	Children and Other Populations that are Unusually Susceptible
Section 3.3	Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect

ATSDR Information Center

Phone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) or 1-888-232-6348 (TTY)

Internet: <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

ATSDR develops educational and informational materials for health care providers categorized by hazardous substance, clinical condition, and/or by susceptible population. The following additional materials are available online:

Clinician Briefs and Overviews discuss health effects and approaches to patient management in a brief/factsheet style. They are narrated PowerPoint presentations with Continuing Education credit available (see https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/emes/health_professionals/clinician-briefs-overviews.html).

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident (see <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/MHMI/index.html>).

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs™) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances (see <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/Index.asp>).

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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 • Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/>.

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, 395 E Street, S.W., Suite 9200, Patriots Plaza Building, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 202-245-0625 or 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636) • Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/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 • Web Page: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/>.

Clinical Resources (Publicly Available Information)

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.aoc.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 • Web Page: <http://www.acoem.org/>.

The American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) is a nonprofit association of physicians with recognized expertise in medical toxicology. Contact: ACMT, 10645 North Tatum Boulevard, Suite 200-111, Phoenix AZ 85028 • Phone: 844-226-8333 • FAX: 844-226-8333 • Web Page: <http://www.acmt.net>.

The Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs) is an interconnected system of specialists who respond to questions from public health professionals, clinicians, policy makers, and the public about the impact of environmental factors on the health of children and reproductive-aged adults. Contact information for regional centers can be found at <http://pehsu.net/findhelp.html>.

The American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) provide support on the prevention and treatment of poison exposures. Contact: AAPCC, 515 King Street, Suite 510, Alexandria VA 22314 • Phone: 701-894-1858 • Poison Help Line: 1-800-222-1222 • Web Page: <http://www.aapcc.org/>.

APPENDIX F. GLOSSARY

Absorption—The process by which a substance crosses biological membranes and enters systemic circulation. Absorption can also refer to the taking up of liquids by solids, or of gases by solids or liquids.

Acute Exposure—Exposure to a chemical for a duration of ≤ 14 days, as specified in the Toxicological Profiles.

Adsorption—The adhesion in an extremely thin layer of molecules (as of gases, solutes, or liquids) to the surfaces of solid bodies or liquids with which they are in contact.

Adsorption Coefficient (K_{oc})—The ratio of the amount of a chemical adsorbed per unit weight of organic carbon in the soil or sediment to the concentration of the chemical in solution at equilibrium.

Adsorption Ratio (K_d)—The amount of a chemical adsorbed by sediment or soil (i.e., the solid phase) divided by the amount of chemical in the solution phase, which is in equilibrium with the solid phase, at a fixed solid/solution ratio. It is generally expressed in micrograms of chemical sorbed per gram of soil or sediment.

Benchmark Dose (BMD) or Benchmark Concentration (BMC)—is the dose/concentration corresponding to a specific response level estimate using a statistical dose-response model applied to either experimental toxicology or epidemiology data. For example, a BMD_{10} would be the dose corresponding to a 10% benchmark response (BMR). The BMD is determined by modeling the dose-response curve in the region of the dose-response relationship where biologically observable data are feasible. The BMDL or BMCL is the 95% lower confidence limit on the BMD or BMC.

Bioconcentration Factor (BCF)—The quotient of the concentration of a chemical in aquatic organisms at a specific time or during a discrete time period of exposure divided by the concentration in the surrounding water at the same time or during the same period.

Biomarkers—Indicators signaling events in biologic systems or samples, typically classified as markers of exposure, effect, and susceptibility.

Cancer Effect Level (CEL)—The lowest dose of a chemical in a study, or group of studies, that produces significant increases in the incidence of cancer (or malignant tumors) between the exposed population and its appropriate control.

Carcinogen—A chemical capable of inducing cancer.

Case-Control Study—A type of epidemiological study that examines the relationship between a particular outcome (disease or condition) and a variety of potential causative agents (such as toxic chemicals). In a case-control study, a group of people with a specified and well-defined outcome is identified and compared to a similar group of people without the outcome.

Case Report—A report that describes a single individual with a particular disease or exposure. These reports may suggest some potential topics for scientific research, but are not actual research studies.

Case Series—Reports that describe the experience of a small number of individuals with the same disease or exposure. These reports may suggest potential topics for scientific research, but are not actual research studies.

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Ceiling Value—A concentration that must not be exceeded.

Chronic Exposure—Exposure to a chemical for ≥ 365 days, as specified in the Toxicological Profiles.

Clastogen—A substance that causes breaks in chromosomes resulting in addition, deletion, or rearrangement of parts of the chromosome.

Cohort Study—A type of epidemiological study of a specific group or groups of people who have had a common insult (e.g., exposure to an agent suspected of causing disease or a common disease) and are followed forward from exposure to outcome, and who are disease-free at start of follow-up. Often, at least one exposed group is compared to one unexposed group, while in other cohorts, exposure is a continuous variable and analyses are directed towards analyzing an exposure-response coefficient.

Cross-sectional Study—A type of epidemiological study of a group or groups of people that examines the relationship between exposure and outcome to a chemical or to chemicals at a specific point in time.

Data Needs—Substance-specific informational needs that, if met, would reduce the uncertainties of human health risk assessment.

Developmental Toxicity—The occurrence of adverse effects on the developing organism that may result from exposure to a chemical prior to conception (either parent), during prenatal development, or postnatally to the time of sexual maturation. Adverse developmental effects may be detected at any point in the life span of the organism.

Dose-Response Relationship—The quantitative relationship between the amount of exposure to a toxicant and the incidence of the response or amount of the response.

Embryotoxicity and Fetotoxicity—Any toxic effect on the conceptus as a result of prenatal exposure to a chemical; the distinguishing feature between the two terms is the stage of development during which the effect occurs. Effects include malformations and variations, altered growth, and *in utero* death.

Epidemiology—The investigation of factors that determine the frequency and distribution of disease or other health-related conditions within a defined human population during a specified period.

Excretion—The process by which metabolic waste products are removed from the body.

Genotoxicity—A specific adverse effect on the genome of living cells that, upon the duplication of affected cells, can be expressed as a mutagenic, clastogenic, or carcinogenic event because of specific alteration of the molecular structure of the genome.

Half-life—A measure of rate for the time required to eliminate one-half of a quantity of a chemical from the body or environmental media.

Health Advisory—An estimate of acceptable drinking water levels for a chemical substance derived by EPA and based on health effects information. A health advisory is not a legally enforceable federal standard, but serves as technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials.

Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH)—A condition that poses a threat of life or health, or conditions that pose an immediate threat of severe exposure to contaminants that are likely to have adverse cumulative or delayed effects on health.

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Immunotoxicity—Adverse effect on the functioning of the immune system that may result from exposure to chemical substances.

Incidence—The ratio of new cases of individuals in a population who develop a specified condition to the total number of individuals in that population who could have developed that condition in a specified time period.

Intermediate Exposure—Exposure to a chemical for a duration of 15–364 days, as specified in the Toxicological Profiles.

In Vitro—Isolated from the living organism and artificially maintained, as in a test tube.

In Vivo—Occurring within the living organism.

Lethal Concentration_(LO) (LC_{LO})—The lowest concentration of a chemical in air that has been reported to have caused death in humans or animals.

Lethal Concentration₍₅₀₎ (LC₅₀)—A calculated concentration of a chemical in air to which exposure for a specific length of time is expected to cause death in 50% of a defined experimental animal population.

Lethal Dose_(LO) (LD_{LO})—The lowest dose of a chemical introduced by a route other than inhalation that has been reported to have caused death in humans or animals.

Lethal Dose₍₅₀₎ (LD₅₀)—The dose of a chemical that has been calculated to cause death in 50% of a defined experimental animal population.

Lethal Time₍₅₀₎ (LT₅₀)—A calculated period of time within which a specific concentration of a chemical is expected to cause death in 50% of a defined experimental animal population.

Lowest-Observed-Adverse-Effect Level (LOAEL)—The lowest exposure level of chemical in a study, or group of studies, that produces statistically or biologically significant increases in frequency or severity of adverse effects between the exposed population and its appropriate control.

Lymphoreticular Effects—Represent morphological effects involving lymphatic tissues such as the lymph nodes, spleen, and thymus.

Malformations—Permanent structural changes that may adversely affect survival, development, or function.

Metabolism—Process in which chemical substances are biotransformed in the body that could result in less toxic and/or readily excreted compounds or produce a biologically active intermediate.

Minimal LOAEL—Indicates a minimal adverse effect or a reduced capacity of an organ or system to absorb additional toxic stress that does not necessarily lead to the inability of the organ or system to function normally.

Minimal Risk Level (MRL)—An estimate of daily human exposure to a hazardous substance that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of adverse noncancer health effects over a specified route and duration of exposure.

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Modifying Factor (MF)—A value (greater than zero) that is applied to the derivation of a Minimal Risk Level (MRL) to reflect additional concerns about the database that are not covered by the uncertainty factors. The default value for a MF is 1.

Morbidity—The state of being diseased; the morbidity rate is the incidence or prevalence of a disease in a specific population.

Mortality—Death; the mortality rate is a measure of the number of deaths in a population during a specified interval of time.

Mutagen—A substance that causes mutations, which are changes in the DNA sequence of a cell's DNA. Mutations can lead to birth defects, miscarriages, or cancer.

Necropsy—The gross examination of the organs and tissues of a dead body to determine the cause of death or pathological conditions.

Neurotoxicity—The occurrence of adverse effects on the nervous system following exposure to a hazardous substance.

No-Observed-Adverse-Effect Level (NOAEL)—The exposure level of a chemical at which there were no statistically or biologically significant increases in frequency or severity of adverse effects seen between the exposed population and its appropriate control. Although effects may be produced at this exposure level, they are not considered to be adverse.

Octanol-Water Partition Coefficient (K_{ow})—The equilibrium ratio of the concentrations of a chemical in *n*-octanol and water, in dilute solution.

Odds Ratio (OR)—A means of measuring the association between an exposure (such as toxic substances and a disease or condition) that represents the best estimate of relative risk (risk as a ratio of the incidence among subjects exposed to a particular risk factor divided by the incidence among subjects who were not exposed to the risk factor). An odds ratio that is greater than 1 is considered to indicate greater risk of disease in the exposed group compared to the unexposed group.

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)—An Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulatory limit on the amount or concentration of a substance not to be exceeded in workplace air averaged over any 8-hour work shift of a 40-hour workweek.

Pesticide—General classification of chemicals specifically developed and produced for use in the control of agricultural and public health pests (insects or other organisms harmful to cultivated plants or animals).

Pharmacokinetics—The dynamic behavior of a material in the body, used to predict the fate (disposition) of an exogenous substance in an organism. Utilizing computational techniques, it provides the means of studying the absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion of chemicals by the body.

Pharmacokinetic Model—A set of equations that can be used to describe the time course of a parent chemical or metabolite in an animal system. There are two types of pharmacokinetic models: data-based and physiologically-based. A data-based model divides the animal system into a series of compartments, which, in general, do not represent real, identifiable anatomic regions of the body, whereas the physiologically-based model compartments represent real anatomic regions of the body.

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Physiologically Based Pharmacodynamic (PBPD) Model—A type of physiologically based dose-response model that quantitatively describes the relationship between target tissue dose and toxic endpoints. These models advance the importance of physiologically based models in that they clearly describe the biological effect (response) produced by the system following exposure to an exogenous substance.

Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model—A type of physiologically based dose-response model that is comprised of a series of compartments representing organs or tissue groups with realistic weights and blood flows. These models require a variety of physiological information, including tissue volumes, blood flow rates to tissues, cardiac output, alveolar ventilation rates, and possibly membrane permeabilities. The models also utilize biochemical information, such as blood:air partition coefficients, and metabolic parameters. PBPK models are also called biologically based tissue dosimetry models.

Prevalence—The number of cases of a disease or condition in a population at one point in time.

Prospective Study—A type of cohort study in which a group is followed over time and the pertinent observations are made on events occurring after the start of the study.

Recommended Exposure Limit (REL)—A National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) time-weighted average (TWA) concentration for up to a 10-hour workday during a 40-hour workweek.

Reference Concentration (RfC)—An estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a continuous inhalation exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious noncancer health effects during a lifetime. The inhalation RfC is expressed in units of mg/m³ or ppm.

Reference Dose (RfD)—An estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of the daily oral exposure of the human population to a potential hazard that is likely to be without risk of deleterious noncancer health effects during a lifetime. The oral RfD is expressed in units of mg/kg/day.

Reportable Quantity (RQ)—The quantity of a hazardous substance that is considered reportable under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). RQs are (1) ≥ 1 pound or (2) for selected substances, an amount established by regulation either under CERCLA or under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act. Quantities are measured over a 24-hour period.

Reproductive Toxicity—The occurrence of adverse effects on the reproductive system that may result from exposure to a hazardous substance. The toxicity may be directed to the reproductive organs and/or the related endocrine system. The manifestation of such toxicity may be noted as alterations in sexual behavior, fertility, pregnancy outcomes, or modifications in other functions that are dependent on the integrity of this system.

Retrospective Study—A type of cohort study based on a group of persons known to have been exposed at some time in the past. Data are collected from routinely recorded events, up to the time the study is undertaken. Retrospective studies are limited to causal factors that can be ascertained from existing records and/or examining survivors of the cohort.

Risk—The possibility or chance that some adverse effect will result from a given exposure to a hazardous substance.

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Risk Factor—An aspect of personal behavior or lifestyle, an environmental exposure, existing health condition, or an inborn or inherited characteristic that is associated with an increased occurrence of disease or other health-related event or condition.

Risk Ratio/Relative Risk—The ratio of the risk among persons with specific risk factors compared to the risk among persons without risk factors. A risk ratio that is greater than 1 indicates greater risk of disease in the exposed group compared to the unexposed group.

Serious LOAEL—A dose that evokes failure in a biological system and can lead to morbidity or mortality.

Short-Term Exposure Limit (STEL)—A STEL is a 15-minute TWA exposure that should not be exceeded at any time during a workday.

Standardized Mortality Ratio (SMR)—A ratio of the observed number of deaths and the expected number of deaths in a specific standard population.

Target Organ Toxicity—This term covers a broad range of adverse effects on target organs or physiological systems (e.g., renal, cardiovascular) extending from those arising through a single limited exposure to those assumed over a lifetime of exposure to a chemical.

Teratogen—A chemical that causes structural defects that affect the development of an organism.

Threshold Limit Value (TLV)—An American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) concentration of a substance to which it is believed that nearly all workers may be repeatedly exposed, day after day, for a working lifetime without adverse effect. The TLV may be expressed as a Time-Weighted Average (TLV-TWA), as a Short-Term Exposure Limit (TLV-STEL), or as a ceiling limit (TLV-C).

Time-Weighted Average (TWA)—An average exposure within a given time period.

Toxicokinetic—The absorption, distribution, metabolism, and elimination of toxic compounds in the living organism.

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)—The TRI is an EPA program that tracks toxic chemical releases and pollution prevention activities reported by industrial and federal facilities.

Uncertainty Factor (UF)—A factor used in operationally deriving the Minimal Risk Level (MRL), Reference Dose (RfD), or Reference Concentration (RfC) from experimental data. UFs are intended to account for (1) the variation in sensitivity among the members of the human population, (2) the uncertainty in extrapolating animal data to the case of human, (3) the uncertainty in extrapolating from data obtained in a study that is of less than lifetime exposure, and (4) the uncertainty in using lowest-observed-adverse-effect level (LOAEL) data rather than no-observed-adverse-effect level (NOAEL) data. A default for each individual UF is 10; if complete certainty in data exists, a value of 1 can be used; however, a reduced UF of 3 may be used on a case-by-case basis (3 being the approximate logarithmic average of 10 and 1).

Xenobiotic—Any substance that is foreign to the biological system.

APPENDIX G. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS

AAPCC	American Association of Poison Control Centers
ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
ACOEM	American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
ACMT	American College of Medical Toxicology
ADI	acceptable daily intake
ADME	absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion
AEGL	Acute Exposure Guideline Level
AIC	Akaike's information criterion
AIHA	American Industrial Hygiene Association
ALT	alanine aminotransferase
AOEC	Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics
AP	alkaline phosphatase
AST	aspartate aminotransferase
atm	atmosphere
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
AWQC	Ambient Water Quality Criteria
BCF	bioconcentration factor
BMD/C	benchmark dose or benchmark concentration
BMD _x	dose that produces a X% change in response rate of an adverse effect
BMDL _x	95% lower confidence limit on the BMD _x
BMDS	Benchmark Dose Software
BMR	benchmark response
BUN	blood urea nitrogen
C	centigrade
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAS	Chemical Abstract Services
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEL	cancer effect level
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Ci	curie
CI	confidence interval
cm	centimeter
CPSC	Consumer Products Safety Commission
CWA	Clean Water Act
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
DOD	Department of Defense
DOE	Department of Energy
DWEL	drinking water exposure level
EAFUS	Everything Added to Food in the United States
ECG/EKG	electrocardiogram
EEG	electroencephalogram
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERPG	emergency response planning guidelines
F	Fahrenheit
F1	first-filial generation
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FR	Federal Register

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FSH	follicle stimulating hormone
g	gram
GC	gas chromatography
gd	gestational day
GGT	γ -glutamyl transferase
GRAS	generally recognized as safe
HEC	human equivalent concentration
HED	human equivalent dose
HHS	Department of Health and Human Services
HPLC	high-performance liquid chromatography
HSDB	Hazardous Substances Data Bank
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
IDLH	immediately dangerous to life and health
IRIS	Integrated Risk Information System
Kd	adsorption ratio
kg	kilogram
kkg	kilokilogram; 1 kilokilogram is equivalent to 1,000 kilograms and 1 metric ton
K _{oc}	organic carbon partition coefficient
K _{ow}	octanol-water partition coefficient
L	liter
LC	liquid chromatography
LC ₅₀	lethal concentration, 50% kill
LC _{Lo}	lethal concentration, low
LD ₅₀	lethal dose, 50% kill
LD _{Lo}	lethal dose, low
LDH	lactate dehydrogenase
LH	luteinizing hormone
LOAEL	lowest-observed-adverse-effect level
LSE	Level of Significant Exposure
LT ₅₀	lethal time, 50% kill
m	meter
mCi	millicurie
MCL	maximum contaminant level
MCLG	maximum contaminant level goal
MF	modifying factor
mg	milligram
mL	milliliter
mm	millimeter
mmHg	millimeters of mercury
mmol	millimole
MRL	Minimal Risk Level
MS	mass spectrometry
MSHA	Mine Safety and Health Administration
Mt	metric ton
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAS	National Academy of Science
NCEH	National Center for Environmental Health
ND	not detected
ng	nanogram
NHANES	National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey
NIEHS	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

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NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NLM	National Library of Medicine
nm	nanometer
nmol	nanomole
NOAEL	no-observed-adverse-effect level
NPL	National Priorities List
NR	not reported
NRC	National Research Council
NS	not specified
NTP	National Toxicology Program
OR	odds ratio
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PAC	Protective Action Criteria
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
PBPD	physiologically based pharmacodynamic
PBPK	physiologically based pharmacokinetic
PEHSU	Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit
PEL	permissible exposure limit
PEL-C	permissible exposure limit-ceiling value
pg	picogram
PND	postnatal day
POD	point of departure
ppb	parts per billion
ppbv	parts per billion by volume
ppm	parts per million
ppt	parts per trillion
REL	recommended exposure limit
REL-C	recommended exposure limit-ceiling value
RfC	reference concentration
RfD	reference dose
RNA	ribonucleic acid
SARA	Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act
SCE	sister chromatid exchange
SD	standard deviation
SE	standard error
SGOT	serum glutamic oxaloacetic transaminase (same as aspartate aminotransferase or AST)
SGPT	serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase (same as alanine aminotransferase or ALT)
SIC	standard industrial classification
SMR	standardized mortality ratio
sRBC	sheep red blood cell
STEL	short term exposure limit
TLV	threshold limit value
TLV-C	threshold limit value-ceiling value
TRI	Toxics Release Inventory
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TWA	time-weighted average
UF	uncertainty factor
U.S.	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USNRC	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

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VOC	volatile organic compound
WBC	white blood cell
WHO	World Health Organization
>	greater than
≥	greater than or equal to
=	equal to
<	less than
≤	less than or equal to
%	percent
α	alpha
β	beta
γ	gamma
δ	delta
μm	micrometer
μg	microgram
q ₁ *	cancer slope factor
-	negative
+	positive
(+)	weakly positive result
(-)	weakly negative result