

TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR BORON

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

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DISCLAIMER

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

UPDATE STATEMENT

A Toxicological Profile for Boron Draft for Public Comment was released in October 2007. This 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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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 these toxic substances 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; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

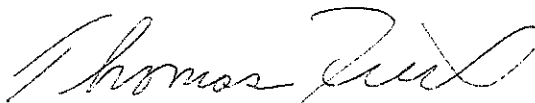
The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels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

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.

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



Thomas R. Frieden, M.D., M.P.H.
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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (CERCLA or Superfund). CERCLA section 104(i)(1) directs the Administrator of ATSDR to "...effectuate and implement the health related authorities" of the statute. This includes the preparation of toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list. In addition, ATSDR has the authority to prepare toxicological profiles for substances not found at sites on the National Priorities List, in an effort to "...establish and maintain inventory of literature, research, and studies on the health effects of toxic substances" under CERCLA Section 104(i)(1)(B), to respond to requests for consultation under section 104(i)(4), and as otherwise necessary to support the site-specific response actions conducted by ATSDR.

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.

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PEER REVIEW

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

Draft for Public Comment:

1. Michael Dourson, Ph.D., DABT, Toxicological Excellence for Risk Assessment, Cincinnati, Ohio;
2. Curtis Eckhert, Ph.D., University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California; and
3. Joseph Landolph, Ph.D., University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

These experts collectively have knowledge of boron'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	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
CONTENTS	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT	1
1.1 WHAT IS BORON?	2
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO BORON WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT?	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO BORON?	3
1.4 HOW CAN BORON ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	4
1.5 HOW CAN BORON AFFECT MY HEALTH?	4
1.6 HOW CAN BORON AFFECT CHILDREN?	5
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BORON?	5
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO BORON?	6
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?	6
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	7
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	9
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO BORON IN THE UNITED STATES	9
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	10
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS (MRLs)	13
2.3.1 Chronic-Duration Oral Studies	20
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	23
3.1 INTRODUCTION	23
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	23
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	24
3.2.1.1 Death	24
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	25
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	38
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	38
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	38
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	38
3.2.1.7 Cancer	38
3.2.2 Oral Exposure	39
3.2.2.1 Death	39
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	41
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	76
3.2.2.4 Neurological Effects	76
3.2.2.5 Reproductive Effects	77
3.2.2.6 Developmental Effects	82

3.2.2.7	Cancer	85
3.2.3	Dermal Exposure.....	85
3.2.3.1	Death.....	86
3.2.3.2	Systemic Effects.....	86
3.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	87
3.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	87
3.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects.....	87
3.2.3.6	Developmental Effects.....	87
3.2.3.7	Cancer	87
3.2.4	Other Routes of Exposure	87
3.3	GENOTOXICITY	87
3.4	TOXICOKINETICS.....	89
3.4.1	Absorption.....	89
3.4.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	89
3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	89
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure	89
3.4.2	Distribution	89
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	89
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	90
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure	90
3.4.3	Metabolism.....	90
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion.....	90
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	90
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	90
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure	91
3.4.4.4	Other Routes of Exposure.....	91
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	92
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	95
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms.....	95
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity.....	96
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	97
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	97
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	98
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	100
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Boron.....	101
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Boron.....	102
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	102
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	102
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS.....	103
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure.....	103
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden	104
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	104
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE.....	104
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Boron.....	105
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs.....	107
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies	116
4.	CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION.....	119
4.1	CHEMICAL IDENTITY.....	119
4.2	PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES.....	119

5. PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	127
5.1 PRODUCTION	127
5.2 IMPORT/EXPORT	128
5.3 USE	128
5.4 DISPOSAL	132
6. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	135
6.1 OVERVIEW	135
6.2 RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	138
6.2.1 Air	138
6.2.2 Water	141
6.2.3 Soil	142
6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	143
6.3.1 Transport and Partitioning	143
6.3.2 Transformation and Degradation	144
6.3.2.1 Air	144
6.3.2.2 Water	144
6.3.2.3 Sediment and Soil	145
6.4 LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	145
6.4.1 Air	145
6.4.2 Water	146
6.4.3 Sediment and Soil	146
6.4.4 Other Environmental Media	147
6.5 GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	150
6.6 EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	153
6.7 POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	154
6.8 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	155
6.8.1 Identification of Data Needs	155
6.8.2 Ongoing Studies	158
7. ANALYTICAL METHODS	159
7.1 BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	159
7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	161
7.3 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	164
7.3.1 Identification of Data Needs	164
7.3.2 Ongoing Studies	165
8. REGULATIONS, ADVISORIES, AND GUIDELINES	167
9. REFERENCES	173
10. GLOSSARY	191
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 Boron and Compounds - Inhalation.....	31
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Boron and Compounds - Oral.....	66
3-3. Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance.....	94
3-4. Existing Information on Health Effects of Boron.....	106
6-1. Frequency of NPL Sites with Boron and Selected Boron Contamination.....	136

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LIST OF TABLES

3-1. Levels of Significant Exposure to Boron and Compounds - Inhalation.....	26
3-2. Levels of Significant Exposure to Boron and Compounds - Oral.....	42
3-3. Genotoxicity of Boron In Vitro.....	88
4-1. Chemical Identity of Boron and Selected Boron Compounds.....	120
4-2. Physical and Chemical Properties of Boron and Selected Boron Compounds.....	123
5-1. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Boron Trifluoride.....	129
5-2. Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Boron Trichloride.....	130
5-3. Current U.S. Manufacturers of Boron and Selected Boron Compounds.....	131
6-1. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Boron Trifluoride.....	139
6-2. Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Boron Trichloride.....	140
6-3. Boron Levels in Food.....	148
6-4. Dietary Boron Intake.....	152
7-1. Analytical Methods for Determining Boron in Biological Materials.....	160
7-2. Analytical Methods for Determining Boron in Environmental Samples.....	162
8-1. Regulations, Advisories and Guidelines Applicable to Boron and Boron Compounds.....	169

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