

## **"RULES OF THUMB" FOR HELPING TO AVOID DUPLICATIVE ACTIVITY BETWEEN IPCS AND OECD ASSESSMENT PROGRAMMES**

1. The following "rules of thumb" provide guidance in helping countries and industry to avoid the potential for conducting inadvertent duplicative assessment work under the auspices of the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Comment on the usefulness of these "rules of thumb" is welcome. The relevant assessment programmes are those involved in the preparation of IPCS Environmental Health Criteria Documents (EHC) and Concise International Chemical Assessment Documents (CICADS) and the OECD's High Production Chemicals Programme with associated Screening Information Dataset Assessment Reports (SIARS).

2. The rules of thumb have been developed based on discussions of the Technical Co-ordinating Group on Existing Chemicals and Pollutants of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC). The objectives of this group include assisting co-ordination of selection by countries and authoring institutions of chemicals for which international assessments are developed in order to avoid duplication and providing guidance and direction to countries regarding the most appropriate international assessment route to be followed in order to meet their own objectives as well as those of the global community.

3. The IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group on Existing Chemicals holds the view that each assessment programme has its own individual strengths and orientation.

- The OECD HPV Chemicals Programme ensures the common acceptance of the initial hazard assessment based on a Screening Information Dataset for chemicals produced in quantities greater than 1 tonne in any OECD Member country.
- The IPCS CICAD programme adds value internationally to recognised existing assessment reports. It focuses, in particular, on chemicals with data beyond the OECD Screening Data Set and on chemicals that are already considered in need of a more detailed assessment, and provides a sample risk characterisation. The inclusion of chemicals in the IPCS CICAD programme also takes into consideration the usefulness of carrying out the assessment for countries at different stage of development. These chemicals may or may not be in high production volume in the OECD and often include inorganics and naturally occurring chemicals, otherwise not dealt with by the OECD HPV Programme.

4. Efforts to build synergies between the programme should be exploited, particularly since there are many similarities in the information needs for assessment and the assessment methodologies followed. The IOMC Co-ordinating Group agreed that there was an overwhelming need to share the burden of international work. The need to work towards common formats for presenting summary information to be

used globally in assessments and especially the use of robust study summaries to report key results is emphasised as being important.

5. The development of some rules of thumb to provide guidance to Member countries/States for how to deal with cases of potential duplication were proposed by the IOMC Technical Co-ordinating Group to be developed to provide further practical guidance for reducing the potential for duplication and for encouraging greater collaborative work.

6. At the outset, the relevant IPCS and OECD websites should be used to find out whether any existing assessment work is planned, currently underway or completed. OECDs HPV Tracking System (<http://cs3-hq.oecd.org/scripts/hpv/>) and the Risk Assessment Homepage of the IPCS are relevant here for CICADs ([http://www.who.int/pcs/ra\\_site/cicads.htm](http://www.who.int/pcs/ra_site/cicads.htm)) and for EHCs ([http://www.who.int/pcs/ra\\_site/ehc.html](http://www.who.int/pcs/ra_site/ehc.html)).

7. Consultation within a country among agencies, industry and institutions carrying out assessment work to be considered internationally should also be undertaken to identify further sources of information and to co-ordinate efforts nationally.

### **"Rules of Thumb"**

8. Irrespective of whether a chemical starts its international assessment in the IPCS or the OECD assessment programmes, there is a need to share the burden of work. The following points are identified to assist in considering where to nominate the chemical for assessment. IPCS and OECD Secretariats will continue to co-ordinate and monitor efforts in applying these rule of thumb to improve the guidance wherever possible.

- In cases where the chemical is produced in high production volume (greater than 10 tonnes in any one country) and there are significant basic information gaps or little public availability of information, the OECD HPV Chemicals Programme provides an important mechanism for ensuring existing information is identified and agreed testing is conducted on Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) endpoints.
- Where data exists beyond the OECD SIDS and existing information shows that all SIDS endpoints are adequately filled, then the IPCS CICAD Programme provides a way of gaining rapid international assessment and peer review of the existing information.
- Where the chemical is not in high production volume but concerns exist in either an OECD Member country or a country with an economy in transition, then an IPCS CICAD might be considered as a relevant starting point.
- Where there are plausible reasons for conducting an assessment in either of the IPCS or OECD assessment programmes, the following should provide a system of alerts, so that particular care should be exercised when considering whether further assessment is needed, or as appropriate for deciding on priorities:

In general,

- Initiation of an OECD SIAR should not be undertaken when there is an IPCS CICAD or EHC which has considered information over the preceding five years (unless significant new SIDS information is available).
- Initiation of a new OECD SIAR should not be undertaken if a current assessment is underway or planned to be completed in the next two years. An additional check with the IPCS Secretariat should be made to ensure that the SIDS endpoints are sufficiently covered.
- If an OECD SIAR has been selected or in the information gathering stage for longer than 5 years, and a high quality national assessment report becomes available then this fact should be brought to the attention of IPCS/OECD Secretariats to help decide the most effective way of proceeding.