

# Environment, Health & Safety News

No. 12, November 2001

## Introduction

*The Environment, Health and Safety News is a newsletter which comes out midway between Joint Meetings, approximately every eight months. Its purpose is to provide an update on the main events and activities of the EHS Programme. Information on new publications arising from the Programme as well as dates and venues of upcoming events and meetings are given.*

## STAFF IN THE EHS DIVISION

New staff members in the Environment, Health and Safety Division include Shinichi Takae who replaces Naoyuki Yasuda on Existing Chemicals, and Nicole Harrison working on Existing Chemicals, and Rebecca Weiner and Amanda Whitfield, both working on Biotechnology. New support staff include: Keri Aspegren and Natalie who both work on Test Guidelines/Endocrine Disrupters and HCL, and Rebecca Warren who works on Existing Chemicals/GLP.

Béatrice Grenier, Lars Mortensen, Dorothy Canter, Wendy Fages, Naoyuki Yasuda and Ponciano Villafuerte-Zavala have all left the Organisation. At the end of the year, Tetsuya Maekawa, Myropi Paneli, and Suzanna Lynch will also be leaving. Lesley Onyon will be taking a half-year personal leave.



## TEST GUIDELINES

In October 2001 EPOC endorsed the Joint Meeting approval of the revisions of Test Guidelines 420, 423, and 425 for acute oral toxicity and the subsequent deletion of Guideline 401. They will be forwarded to Council for adoption later this year. Council will also be requested to adopt Guidelines 307 and 308 on Transformation in Soil and Aquatic Sediment systems, respectively. The latter Guidelines had been endorsed by EPOC earlier this year.

In May 2001 the Working Group of National Test Guideline Co-ordinators (WNT) reached agreement on Test Guideline 122 (pH-metric method for Partition Coefficient), TG 202 (Immobilisation Test in Daphnia), TG 404 (Acute Skin Irritation/Corrosion), TG 405 (Acute Eye Irritation/Corrosion) and TG 429 (Local Lymph Node Assay for Sensitisation). These draft Guidelines were subsequently submitted to the Joint Meeting for approval in June 2001 and EPOC for formal endorsement.

Other achievements included the technical agreement on the percutaneous absorption Guidelines and the successful outcome of the two meetings on phototoxicity and skin corrosivity in Berlin in October/November.

The following technical meetings related to the development of test Guidelines and Guidance Documents have been held since April 2001:

- 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group of National Co-ordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme, Paris, 30<sup>th</sup> May-1<sup>st</sup> June 2001;
- Expert Group for the development of a Guidance Document on Statistical Analysis of Ecotoxicity Data, Paris, 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2001;
- Extended Expert Consultation Meeting on Phototoxicity Testing, Berlin, Germany, 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2001;
- Extended Expert Consultation Meeting on Skin Corrosivity Testing, Berlin, Germany, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2001.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting approved the revised Work plan in June 2001 [ENV/JM/TG(2001)9/REV2]. The revised Work plan includes five new projects on physical chemical properties and health effects.

#### *Future events:*

- ◆ Steering Committee for the Stockholm Conference on Development, Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Internationally Accepted Test Methods in Hazard Assessment, Washington, D.C., 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2001;
- ◆ Conference on Development, Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of Internationally Accepted Test Methods in Hazard Assessment, Stockholm, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

#### *Recent Publications:*

- 📖 Guidance Notes for Analysis and Evaluation of Repeat Dose Toxicity Studies, Series No. 32;
- 📖 Guidance Document on Transformation/Dissolution of Metals and Metal Compounds in Aqueous Media (No. 29) (July 2001);

#### *Future publications:*

- 📖 Draft Guidance for the Conduct of Skin Absorption Studies (No. 28) (January 2002);
- 📖 Detailed Review Paper on Non-Genotoxic Carcinogens Detection: The Performance of In-Vitro Cell Transformation Assays (No. 31) (August 2002);
- 📖 Draft Guidance Document on the Development, Validation and Regulatory Acceptance of New and Updated Internationally Acceptable Test Methods in Hazard Assessment (No. 34) (November 2002).



## **ENDOCRINE DISRUPTERS**

The validation work of the uterotrophic assay has progressed well and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Validation Management Group (VMG)-mammalian agreed that no more experimental work is needed after Phase 2 of the validation. The 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Endocrine Disrupters Testing and Assessment Task Force (EDTA) and the 13<sup>th</sup> WNT agreed that a limited independent review of the validation work of this assay should be conducted after all reports and documents of the validation are available. The review panel will be established before the end of the year and it is expected that the actual review will take place in January/February 2002.

The validation work of the Herschberger assay is slightly behind schedule. The first phase has been completed but the start of the second phase has been delayed because the full analysis and report of the first phase took more time than expected.

The experimental work related to the enhancement of Test Guideline 407 is expected to be finished by the end of the year. Reports describing the various parts of the validation work of this assay, as well as a full analysis of all data obtained, are currently being drafted.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting agreed to start a new activity focussed on "Sharing the Burden of Endocrine Disrupters Testing and Assessment". The first assessment reports have been received from Japan and are made available on the new web site for this work: <http://www.oecd.org/oecd/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-document-524-nodirectorate-no-24-19636-8,FF.html>

The following technical meetings related to the work on endocrine disrupters have been held since March 2001:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the VMG-Mammalian Effects of Endocrine Disrupters, Paris, 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March 2001;
- 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the VMGroup-Ecotoxicity Effects of Endocrine Disrupters, Paris, 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March 2001;
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EDTA, Paris, 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May 2001.

#### *Future Events:*

- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the VMG-Mammalian Effects, Paris, March 2002;
- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the VMG-Ecotoxicity Effects, Paris, March/April 2002;
- ◆ 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EDTA, Paris, May 2002.

#### *Recent and Forthcoming Publications:*

- 📖 OECD Report of the Initial Work towards the Validation of the Rodent Uterotrophic Assay: Phase One (22 March 2001);
- 📖 OECD Report of the Initial Work towards the validation of the Rodent Herschberger Assay. (Expected Date of Release: March 2002);
- 📖 Background Review of the Uterotrophic Assay: Summary of the Available Literature in Support of the OECD Programme to Standardise

and to Validate the Uterotrophic Assay (Expected Date of Release: January 2002);

📖 OECD Report of the Work towards the Validation of the Rodent Uterotrophic Assay: Phase Two (Expected Date of Release: January 2002).



## HARMONISATION OF CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING SYSTEMS FOR CHEMICALS

Apart from the harmonised classification of mixtures hazardous to the aquatic environment, the task force on HCL had reached agreement on all outstanding issues. In June 2001 the 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting established a small ad hoc working group that solved the still controversial issues on aquatic hazards during their 32<sup>nd</sup> session. The Joint Meeting concluded that with the agreement on this last issue the work on the harmonisation of the classification for all currently existing hazard classes has come to an end. Following the 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting the final document on the "Harmonised Integrated Hazard Classification System for Chemical Substances and Mixtures" was published both electronically [<http://www.oecd.org/ehs/class>] and as a glossy paper publication. The latter version is available from the Secretariat upon request.

Following the 32<sup>nd</sup> Joint Meeting, work continued on water-activated toxicity/corrosivity hazards and aspiration hazards. Both activities are lead by Canada and involve teleconferences, the drafting of a Detailed Review Document (DRD) and a Step 2 Proposal. In addition, the work on respiratory tract irritation hazards has started with the establishment of an ad hoc Expert Group and initial discussions of a DRD on this subject. This work is lead by the UK. Furthermore, Sweden has drafted a discussion document on narcotic effect hazards.

During the summer of 2001 work had commenced to integrate the OECD agreements, the UN-CETDG work on physical hazards and the ILO-lead work on hazard communication into a single globally harmonised classification system (GHS). The Secretariat has been extensively involved in bringing all elements of the GHS together while ensuring that the carefully crafted OECD agreements remain unchanged. In October 2001 the GHS was submitted by the IOMC to the

restructured UN-ECOSOC Committee on Transport of Dangerous Goods and the GHS.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on HCL scheduled for October 2001 was cancelled following the terrorist attacks of 11<sup>th</sup> September and the subsequent travel restrictions by several member countries and industry. Instead, a teleconference was held with the Chair, and representatives of Canada, the EU and USA to discuss the preferred process to move forward with the new work and with the validation of the Transformation/Dissolution Protocol. The 11<sup>th</sup> Task Force Meeting is provisionally scheduled for January 2002.

### *Future Events:*

- ◆ 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the UN-ECOSOC SCEGHS, Geneva, 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> December 2001;
- ◆ Ad hoc Expert Meeting on Aspiration Hazards, Paris 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2002;
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on HCL, Paris, 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> January 2002.

### *Recent Publications:*

- 📖 Guidance Document on the Use of the Harmonised System for the Classification of Chemicals Which are Hazardous for the Aquatic Environment (No. 27) (July 2001);
- 📖 Detailed Review Document on Hazard Classification Systems for Mixtures (No. 30) (July 2001);
- 📖 Harmonised Integrated Classification System for Human Health and Environmental Hazards of Chemical Substances and Mixtures (No. 33) (August 2001).



## RISK ASSESSMENT

The OECD/UNEP Workshop on the Use of Multimedia Models for Estimating Overall Environmental Persistence and Long-Range Transport in the Context of PBTs/POPs Assessment, co-hosted by Canada and the US, was held in Ottawa, Canada on 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2001. The draft conclusions of the Workshop, including the following recommendations to OECD, will be presented at the February Joint Meeting for their consideration.

- To review the current approaches used for assessment of persistence and long-range transport, and identify opportunities for more harmonised approaches;
- To investigate the possible process for ranking or classification of substances in the context of POPs/PBTs assessment; and
- To develop guidance for users on applicability of multimedia models, including information on accuracy, data availability and model adaptations.

The Workshop report is expected to be published by the end of May 2002.

A pilot study is planned for the development of harmonised formats to be used for providing summary information on environmental, consumer and workplace exposure to industrial chemicals. An ad-hoc expert group will finalise draft formats in March 2002, and start testing the formats with some example chemicals. Participation of external experts will be invited.

The OECD Secretariat participates in the organising committee for the International Council of Chemical Associations' Long-range Research Initiative Workshop on QSARs. This workshop is planned tentatively in Madrid on 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March 2002. Input to future OECD work on QSARs is expected from this workshop.

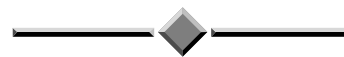
The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force on Environmental Exposure Assessment (Ottawa, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November 2002) discussed the schedule for developing OECD-wide emission scenario documents, and decided to circulate several drafts to the Heads of Delegations to the Joint Meeting for their comments within a couple of months.

#### *Future Events:*

- ◆ ICCA/LRI Workshop on (Quantitative) Structure-Activity Relationships (Madrid, Spain; 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> March 2002);
- ◆ 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Environmental Exposure Assessment (Oslo, Norway; 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> June 2002);
- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Ad-hoc Group on Reporting Exposure Information (Washington D.C., US; 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> October 2002).

#### *Future publication:*

📖 Report of the OECD/UNEP Workshop on Multimedia Models, May 2002.



## **NEW CHEMICALS**

Member countries and industry have begun sharing notification and assessment information on nine chemical substances that have been notified in two or more countries. The aim of these multilateral arrangements is to build trust and understanding between countries and facilitate the development of approaches that could reduce the burden of new chemical notification and assessment schemes on countries and industry. By the end of the year, participants in the multilaterals will develop reports describing their experiences, identifying existing barriers to information exchange and possible approaches for overcoming these barriers.

A draft form, which incorporates all of the reporting elements found in OECD Member country notification forms, has been developed and is undergoing review. An electronic version of the form, based on an Excel spreadsheet with macros, is also undergoing review. Early next year a proposal will be developed which contains options for implementing the use of the form in Member countries. The purpose of this work is to reduce the cost for companies submitting notifications and to facilitate the sharing of information.

A consultant report that analysed existing low concern, R&D and polymer exemptions/exclusions across OECD countries has been completed, and the Task Force is now considering options that could lead to harmonisation of such requirements.

A workshop will be held in Rome (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April, 2002) to discuss the results from the multilaterals, the draft reporting form, options for harmonising the low concern and exempt chemical requirements, and plans for future work.

#### *Future Event:*

- ◆ Workshop on Notification and Assessment of New Industrial Chemicals (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April, 2002; Rome, Italy).



## EXISTING CHEMICALS

The 12<sup>th</sup> SIDS Initial Assessment Meeting (SIAM12) was held at the OECD headquarters in Paris from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2001. Approximately 50 representatives from Member countries, industry, IPCS, and IFCS attended, including the president of IFCS who was present for part of the meeting. Fifteen HPV chemicals were discussed and conclusions were drawn on the potential hazards, and recommendations on whether or not the chemicals are candidates for further work at the national, regional and international level were agreed for thirteen of them. Issues relating to the two remaining chemicals would either be resolved via the Electronic Discussion Group (EDG) or at SIAM 13.

Six of the chemicals were presented under the ICCA initiative and Member countries also accepted the assessments and presentations made by representatives of industry, which enabled them to reach conclusions on the hazards of these six chemicals, as well as to make recommendations on their priority for further work.

The final evaluation of the ICCA pilot project will now be completed by the Joint Meeting in November 2002 rather than in February 2002 as originally planned, but the pilot phase will still finish at the end of this year at SIAM 13 with the projected assessment of 50 chemicals emanating from the ICCA initiative. A first interim evaluation of the ICCA initiative took place at the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on Existing Chemicals held from 25<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2001 in Paris, with the final evaluation scheduled to take place at the next meeting of the Task Force (28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2002).

The use of Electronic Discussion Groups (EDGs) has been extended. There are now three EDGs for the discussion of chemicals and they are: the 'Pre-SIAM' EDG, which will be used for discussion of chemicals not yet assigned to a specific SIAM; the 'SIAM X' EDG, to be used for discussion of chemicals assigned to a specific SIAM and the 'Post-SIAM' EDG, which will be used for discussion of chemicals after the completion of a SIAM.

The OECD guidance for the preparation of SIDS Dossiers, SIDS Initial Assessment Reports

(Reports) and SIDS Initial Assessment Profiles (Profiles) is currently being reviewed and it is anticipated that revised drafts will be circulated to representatives of Member countries for comments within the next few weeks.

### *Future Events:*

- ◆ SIAM 13, 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2001, Bern, Switzerland;
- ◆ SIAM 14, 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March 2002, OECD, Paris.



## RISK MANAGEMENT

A Technical Guidance Document on the use of socio-economic analysis (SEA) in chemical risk management decision-making will be published by the end of the year, or early next year. This document is the third in a series of publications on integrating SEA in chemical risk management decision-making. The aim of this document is to elaborate on the theory and principles underlying the methodologies used in SEA and on how these are then put into practice. It includes information on 'best practices' in terms of applying the various techniques, and an indication of how appraisal practices are likely to develop over time. In a separate exercise, two "primers" on SEA are also being developed: one for economists that would provide basic information on risk assessment, and the other for risk assessors that would explain economic analysis.

In support of OECD's work on Sustainable Chemistry, a document, "Foundation for the Establishment of Programmes for Research and Development in the Context of Sustainable Chemistry" will be issued later this year. This document will provide guidance to governments of OECD Member and non-member countries who would like to develop their own programmes to promote R&D in Sustainable Chemistry that takes account of national priorities, policies and programmes. From 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September 2001, IUPAC in co-operation with OECD, held a workshop in Venice, Italy (hosted by the Interuniversity Consortium Chemistry for the Environment), on Green Chemistry Education. The purpose of the workshop was to share experiences with existing sustainable chemistry education programmes, identify relevant educational material, develop a background

document explaining the barriers, needs and benefits of Green Chemistry Education, and develop recommendations for further support in this area. (Workshop reports can be found at: [http://helios.unive.it/inca/iupac\\_workshop/](http://helios.unive.it/inca/iupac_workshop/)).

Based on the results of an OECD-wide survey of governments and industry, and a literature search, a database has been developed which contains information on 100 models which are computerised or capable of being computerised for predicting health or environmental effects, exposure potential or possible risks. The information in the database is currently being reviewed by Member countries for accuracy. Once this is completed, the database will be made publicly available on OECD's web site. Shortly thereafter, the Issue Team managing this work will conduct case studies comparing measured data (e.g., data collected on some EU Priority Chemicals) to predictions from several widely used models. The results will also be reported on the web site.

The guidance document on risk communication should be published by the end of the year or early next year. The document, currently being reviewed by the Issue Team on Risk Communication, will provide practical guidance for making decisions about who is responsible for undertaking a risk communication programme in support of chemical risk management, when it should be undertaken, and what are its basic elements. It will provide guidance on how to select the appropriate settings and goals for this program and suggestions for enhancing the success of such a program.


OECD governments are currently submitting to the Secretariat lists of substances for which they are conducting risk assessments or developing risk management strategies and for which they have data gaps and would be interested in learning about what other countries are doing on these substances. The Secretariat will compile the responses and report on the results at the 33rd Joint Meeting.


In response to a mandate in the 1996 OECD Environment Ministers' *Declaration on Risk Reduction for Lead* that calls on OECD to review progress by Member countries, a report was developed that summarises actions taken by Member countries and industry. In October, OECD's Environment Policy Committee took

note of the report and recommended that Member countries build on this progress by continuing their efforts to develop or strengthen national and co-operative efforts considered necessary to reduce risks from exposure to lead.

In response to a major conclusion from the OECD report *Environmental Outlook for the Chemicals Industry* which suggests that more attention be given to managing chemical products throughout their life cycle, the Joint Meeting has agreed to explore the initiation of new work that could support this new orientation. Such an approach could, among other things, address ways to: conduct life cycle assessment for products, collect information on products throughout the distribution chain to final consumers; provide information to the public to help them make informed choices about more environmentally benign products; and create incentives for manufacturers to produce such products. Many chemical policies today - including both regulatory and non-regulatory - could be used, while others may need to be modified or new ones developed. As a first step, a workshop will be held in 2002 which will: (1) provide an opportunity for participants to describe their experiences with life cycle assessment and management of products; (2) develop a framework for a life cycle approach to chemicals management of products; (3) identify areas of work which could benefit from international co-operation; and (4) make recommendations to the Joint Meeting.

*Future publications:*

 *Technical Guidance Document on the Use of Socio-Economic Analysis in Chemical Risk Management Decision Making;*

 *Guidance Document on Risk Communication in the Context of Chemical Risk Management.*



## **POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS (PRTRs)**

### **Guidance Manual**

The PRTR Guidance Manual for Governments was recently translated into Spanish and is now available in four languages: English, French, Russian and Spanish. The documents can be downloaded for free from the PRTR Internet site:

<http://www.oecd.org/oece/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-about-540-nodirectorate-no-no-no-8,FF.html>

## Report

A draft report that explains why national PRTR programmes differ is undergoing Member country review. This report reviews the key features of a PRTR programme, discusses how different drivers have influenced programme design, and explains why similarities and differences between PRTRs exist. It can be viewed as a reference guide for countries that are developing or modifying a PRTR. The report should be published in December 2001.

## Task Force on PRTR Release Estimation Techniques Activities

The Task Force on PRTR Release Estimation Techniques, met for the second time in Washington DC in April 2001, and has made important progress in its work. The group agreed on a basic methodology for evaluating release estimation techniques and on the categories of PRTR estimation techniques that will be used as the basis for future work. The next step is to develop the criteria for evaluating techniques.

The Task Force completed its review of the Resource Compendium of Release Estimation Techniques (Part 1: Point Sources, and Part 2: Diffuse Sources). At the meeting it was agreed that a separate document on techniques used to quantify amounts of chemicals released from off-site transfers was needed. The USEPA volunteered to take the lead in developing this document, which will be Part 3 of the Compendium.

There is no systematic nor comprehensive tool available for identifying existing techniques for estimating pollutant releases from point and diffuse sources and quantifying the amount of pollutants released from off-site transfers. Therefore, one of the key projects of the Task Force is to develop an electronic clearinghouse of such techniques. Environment Canada volunteered to take the lead on the phase 2 of this project. (The first phase of this project was to design the clearinghouse.) The clearinghouse, accessed via the Internet, will include the Resource Compendium of Release Estimation Techniques (Parts 1-3), links to estimation


techniques, documentation about these techniques and other guidance materials. Information in the clearinghouse will be sorted according to various criteria: chemical name, industry sector, process, and estimation technique.

Environment Australia completed a draft of a document on communication tools for PRTR reporters in OECD countries. The Task Force reviewed this document and requested that additional information from industry (via the OECD Business and Industry Advisory Committee) and other international organisations be included.

### *Future Events:*

- ◆ 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on PRTR Release Estimation Techniques will take place in Ottawa, 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2001;
- ◆ 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force on PRTR Release Estimation Techniques will take place in Oslo, 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June, 2002.

### *Recent Publication:*

 *Guidance Manual for Governments: A tool for environmental policy, Spanish Translation.*



## PESTICIDES

### **Guidance Documents for Pesticide Dossiers and Monographs**

#### *Chemical pesticides*

In March 2001 the OECD Working Group on Pesticides published two new guidance documents for the format and structure of industry data submissions (“Dossier Guidance”) and government data reviews (“Monograph Guidance”). These Guidance documents are available on the OECD web site at: <http://www.oecd.org/ehs/PestGD01.htm>.

Countries and industry have been encouraged to use them routinely. These documents will not be revised for a number of years, in order to gain experience and collect feedback on their level of use and usefulness.

Many OECD countries (including Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland, US) and the EC have implemented these Guidance Documents,

indicating that OECD-formatted dossiers were widely accepted by governments and that OECD-formatted monographs have been produced.

### ***Biological Pesticides***

The BioPesticide Steering Group (BPSG) is also developing similar dossier and monograph guidance documents for biological pesticides (microbial pesticides and pheromones, including semiochemicals) which should be available soon.

### **Work Sharing**

The work of sharing the review of pesticide submissions within OECD Member countries continues. Canada, Mexico and the US carry out considerable work sharing, particularly in the review of existing active substances. Canada also reports that about 50% of the major new use submissions to their Pesticide Management Registration Authority are now reviewed under the NAFTA work sharing process.

Industry also benefits from work sharing, particularly at the regional level, e.g. NAFTA or Europe. CropLife International reported to a recent meeting of the Working Group on Pesticides that the time taken to achieve a registration under work sharing compared to average registration timelines is reduced considerably. For example, in the US the average time to achieve a registration is 23-33 months and under work sharing this has been reduced to 16-28 months, a 15 – 30% time reduction.

#### *Future Events:*

- ◆ OECD/UNEP Workshop on the Use of Multimedia Models for Estimating Overall Environmental Persistence and Long-Range Transport in the Context of PBTs/POPs Assessment:

A workshop co-hosted by the US and Canada will be held in Ottawa, Canada on 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> October 2001. The major objectives of this workshop are to:

- develop consensus on the role of multi-media modelling in screening, identifying and prioritising new and existing POPs/PBTs and for performing risk assessments;
- provide clear, specific and practical guidance.

Workshop participants are invited experts only. The output of the workshop will be a report, which will include the identification of research needs and recommendations for further work for OECD, UNEP and others.

- ◆ Workshop on the Economics of Pesticide Risk Reduction in Agriculture, 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2001, Copenhagen.
- ◆ Working Group on Pesticides (WGP):

There will be a special event of the WGP on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2002, the day before the 13<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the group. This special event will be a celebration of 10 years of the Pesticide Programme and a Brainstorming to debate the future direction of the programme.

- The thirteenth meeting of the WGP will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002.

### **Biocides**

#### **Emission Scenario Document for Wood Preservatives**

A group of experts on environmental exposure assessment, including members from Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, UK, US and industry, have prepared the second draft of the Emission Scenario Document (ESD) for environmental exposure to wood preservatives. The final version of this document will be available in autumn 2001. The Expert Group will submit the document to the Biocides Steering Group and the Task Force on Environmental Exposure Assessment with a request to allow circulation to all OECD Member Countries for review and comments by their national experts. This distribution will take place at the end of 2001.

#### **Test Guideline for estimation of wood preservative emission rates (leaching) from treated wood**

The Biocides Steering Group (BSG) is working with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), to develop a common CEN / OECD Test Guideline for the estimation of wood preservative emission rates (leaching) from treated wood. CEN is leading this activity and is working closely with the OECD Expert Group for the Emission

Scenario Document (ESD) for environmental exposure to wood preservatives. A first draft guideline was produced in August 2001. Data generated by the use of this test guideline will be used as part of the exposure assessment for the ESD.

## **Facilitating Access to Pesticide and Biocide Reviews**

### ***Database on Pesticide and Biocide Reviews***

The OECD database on pesticide and biocide review schedules is now available on the OECD Internet. The database is currently restricted by password control to OECD national government use only. The database has:

- kept the main features of the old Access database;
- improved search capabilities, especially for formulations with more than one active ingredient and;
- quality control measures used during the entry of new data.

### ***Web Page in the OECD Pesticides Programme Web Site***

A new web page is available on the OECD Pesticide Programme web site (<http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pest/evalrep.htm>) with links to national government web pages where information on pesticide and biocide review reports are provided. This web page will provide a useful tool for work sharing.

Currently the web page includes information on 20 countries, the European Commission and Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues, JMPR (a joint FAO/WHO activity). There are three categories distinguished, where the country or organisation has different policies regarding placing information on product registration on the web:

- Many countries (e.g. Austria, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and UK) make available a register of authorised products either as a searchable database or as alphabetic lists.
- Only Australia, Canada, the Netherlands and US make available extracts of their regulatory decisions or reviews accompanied with risk assessments.

- A number of countries (e.g. Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia) do not place on the web any information on their registrations.

### *Future Event:*

#### ◆ **Workshop on Biocide Efficacy issues**

An OECD Workshop on the efficacy testing of biocidal products carrying public health claims will be held in Washington D.C., USA on 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> April 2002.

The objectives of this workshop, for both existing products and newly emerging ones, are to:

- exchange information on types of label claims,
- establish performance standards, and
- develop efficacy testing parameters.

Nominations for attendance at this Workshop will be requested soon.

### *Recent publication in the Series on Pesticides:*

📖 Guidance Notes for Analysis and Evaluation of Repeat Dose Toxicity Studies, Series No. 10.

### *Forthcoming publications in the Series on Pesticides:*

📖 Guidance for Registration Requirements for Microbial Pesticides;

📖 Guidance for Registration Requirements for Pheromones and Semiochemicals used for Arthropod Pest Control;

📖 Report of the OECD Workshop on Sharing the Work of Agricultural Pesticide Reviews, 12-14 February 2001, Brussels, European Commission.



## **CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS**

### **Integrated Management of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality**

An OECD Workshop on Integrated Management of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality (SHE & Q) was held on 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June 2001, in Seoul. It was hosted by the Korea Occupational Safety

and Health Agency (KOSHA) and sponsored by the Korean Ministry of Labour. More than 100 experts (including 60 Korean) attended, representing a wide range of interested parties including public authorities, industrial organisations, international organisations and academia.

The purpose of the workshop was to answer the following question: How to establish or improve integrated management of SHE & Q programmes within companies and within public authorities? A number of issues were addressed including:

- Review of examples of successful integrated SHE & Q;
- What are the relations/needs of integrated SHE & Q systems in relation to existing standards (e.g. ISO 9000, ISO 14000);
- Governmental regulations related to integrated SHE & Q;
- Which tools are used/available for implementing successful integrated management systems;
- Roles and responsibilities of the different parties (industry, labour, public authorities, certification/accreditation services, etc.);
- How to develop international co-operation in this area?

Conclusions and recommendations of this event will be published and will provide input for the on-going revision of the *OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response*.

### **Revision of the 1992 edition of the OECD Guiding Principles for Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Drafting Group for the revision of *Guiding Principles* was planned to take place in Boston in September 2001. It has been cancelled due to the tragic events occurring in the United States. The follow-up work is being pursued under written procedure. Nonetheless, we hope that we can continue with the preparation of the second edition of the *Guiding Principles* in accordance with the original schedule.

### **Development of guidance on Safety Performance Indicators**

Guidance is under development on safety performance indicators to help industry,

authorities and communities measure the extent to which actions improve safety. The 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Group of Experts on *Safety Performance Indicators*, planned to take place in Boston in September 2001, was cancelled and has been postponed to 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2001, at OECD, in Paris.

#### *Future Events:*

- ◆ Sixth Meeting on Safety Performance Indicators, OECD, Paris, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2001;
- ◆ Fourth CARAT training session for data entry, OECD, Paris, 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November 2001;
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group on Chemical Accidents, OECD, Paris, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> November 2001.

*Recent and forthcoming publications, including those to be published in the Series on Chemical Accidents:*

- 📖 *Brochure on the Chemical Accident Risk Assessment Thesaurus (CARAT);*
- 📖 *Report on Economic Aspects of Major Chemical Accidents;*
- 📖 *Report of the Special Session on Environmental Consequences of Chemical Accidents (Paris, 28 November 2000);*
- 📖 *Report of the CCPS/OECD Conference and Workshop on Chemical Accident Investigations (Orlando, October 2000).*



## **BIOTECHNOLOGY**

### **Conference on New Biotechnology Foods and Crops: Science, Safety and Society**

A conference on New Biotechnology Foods and Crops: Science, Safety & Society, was held in Bangkok, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> July 2001. This Conference was organised jointly by the OECD and the government of the UK.

The Conference brought together some 250 participants from more than 50 countries, including scientists, government regulators and representatives from industry, academia and civil society. Speakers represented each of these sectors. Amongst other things, the conference concluded with the recommendation that all stakeholders commit to greater transparency on genetically modified organisms and that

governments increase their support for independent and publicly funded scientific research into the risks and benefits of genetically-modified foods and crops.

The Conference web site includes the Summary of the Chairman, Lord Selborne, together with the report from the Conference Rapporteurs. It also includes the presentations given at the Conference, both in written form, as well as a webcast. All of this information can be found at: <http://www1.oecd.org/bangkok/>

## HARMONISATION OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

At the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group, held in Paris, 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> June 2001, it was agreed that a questionnaire on the monitoring/detection/identification of products/organisms produced through biotechnology would be developed, in consultation with the Bureau. The final report is expected to be completed by the end of 2001 and presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> January 2002).

Discussions continue on the development of an effective Unique Identifier for biotech products which are or will be approved in member countries. The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol (ICCP) on Biosafety encouraged the OECD to accelerate its efforts, at its second session in Nairobi, 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> October 2001. This issue will be discussed further, at the upcoming 11<sup>th</sup> Session.

The Working Group continues to develop its consensus documents that include technical information used in the regulatory review of biotechnology products. The information used in these documents is mutually acceptable among OECD Member countries. Upcoming publications are indicated below.

### *Future events:*

- ◆ LMOs and the Environment, An International Conference, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2001;
- ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Group for the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology, Paris, 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> January 2002.

### *Upcoming publications:*

- 📖 Consensus Document on Biology of Pinus Strobus L. (Eastern White Pine);
- 📖 Consensus Document on the Biology of Picea Sitchensis (Bong.) Carr. (Sitka Spruce);
- 📖 Report of the Workshop on the Environmental Considerations of Genetically Modified Trees;
- 📖 Consensus Document on Information Used in the Assessment of Environmental Applications Involving Baculoviruses;
- 📖 Module II: Glufosinate Ammonium (Phosphinothricin) metabolite and residue situation in genetically modified glufosinate-tolerant plants.

**Web site:** BioTrack Online  
<http://www.oecd.org/ehs/service.htm>

**Contacts:** [Peter.Kearns@oecd.org](mailto:Peter.Kearns@oecd.org)  
[Tetsuya.Maekawa@oecd.org](mailto:Tetsuya.Maekawa@oecd.org)  
[Amanda.Whitfield@oecd.org](mailto:Amanda.Whitfield@oecd.org)



## SAFETY OF NOVEL FOODS AND FEEDS

As foreseen in the 11<sup>th</sup> issue of this newsletter, a workshop on the Nutritional Assessment of Novel Foods and Feeds, was held in Ottawa, Canada from 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> February 2001. The workshop included 79 participants from 19 countries, the European Commission, the FAO, OECD's Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations (IACFO). The objective of this workshop was to discuss aspects related to the nutritional assessment of novel foods and feeds. The Task Force congratulated Canada's initiative for hosting this event.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force, held in Paris on 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May 2001, the Codex Alimentarius Secretariat reported progress made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Codex Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology. Draft guidelines made reference to the OECD's consensus documents as tools for compositional analysis of key components.

Also at this meeting, the Task Force decided to establish a new project on capacity building, with the assistance of Russia. This project would develop a training programme on the safety and

risk assessment of agriculture-related, genetically modified organisms.

For inclusion with a questionnaire on bio-markers and new techniques, the Task Force adopted a proposal to include questions on post-market surveillance. The survey will be distributed prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Task Force (10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December 2001).

In addition, the Task Force continues to advance its work regarding the safety/risk assessment of animal feed stuffs derived from genetically-modified plants.

The Task Force is continuing its work on consensus documents, which are complementary to those of the Working Group, and which identify the critical nutrients and critical toxicants associated with major crop plants. The first two consensus documents, one on soybean and the other on canola/ oilseed rape, are being published shortly.

*Future event:*

- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds, Paris, 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

*Recent publications:*

- 📖 *Consensus Document on Key Nutrients and Key Toxicants in Low Erucic Acid Rapeseed;*
- 📖 *Consensus Document on Compositional Considerations for New Varieties of Soybean: Key Food and Feed Nutrients and Antinutrients.*

*Upcoming publication:*

- 📖 *Report of the OECD Workshop on Nutritional Assessment of Novel Foods and Feeds*



**INTERNET**

You can find out more information about the work of the EHS Programme from our homepage and related linked pages on the Internet:

- EHS Homepage  
<http://www.oecd.org/ehs/>

- Chemical Accidents  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/accidents>
- Harmonisation and Classification  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/classify>
- Risk Assessment  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/riskassessment>
- New Chemicals  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/newchemicals>
- Risk Management  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/riskmanagement>
- Test Guidelines  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/testguidelines>
- Existing Chemicals  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/existingchemicals>
- Good Laboratory Practice  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/glp>
- Pesticides  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides>
- Biocides  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/biocides>
- Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers  
<http://www.oecd.org/env/prtr>

Most EHS Publications can be downloaded directly from the web site:

- <http://www.oecd.org/oece/pages/home/displaygeneral/0,3380,EN-documentation-519-14-no-no-no-0,FF.html>

📖 Most publications can be obtained free-of-charge from the Secretariat:

- Fax: 33-1-45 24 16 75,
- OLIS, or
- <mailto:ehscont@oecd.org>

**STAFF OF THE EHS DIVISION**  
 [all phone numbers (33 1) 45 24 xx xx]  
 [all email addresses firstname.lastname@oecd.org]

<b>NAME</b>	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
ASPEGREN, Keri	Test Guidelines, Endocrine Disrupters, HCL	16.74
BERLE, Natalie	Test Guidelines, Endocrine Disrupters, HCL	98.43
CHEONG, Hoe-Seog	Risk Management	17.37
CORMIER, Wendy (on maternity leave)	Test Guidelines, Endocrine Disrupters, HCL	16.74
DE MARCELLUS, Sally	Biotechnology, Internet	19.42
EGGLESTON, Kristin	PRTRs, Risk Assessment	97.43
FENEROL, Claudia	PRTRs	17.63
GIBB, Jill	Pesticides	79.05
HARRISON, Libby	Risk Assessment, Pesticides	16.76
HARRISON, Nicole	Existing Chemicals	85.25
HUET, Marie-Chantal	Chemical Accidents, Pesticides	79.03
KAWAHARA, Kazumi	Test Guidelines	97.75
KEARNS, Peter	Biotechnology	16.77
KOETER, Herman	Test Guidelines, HCL	98.44
LADEUILLE, Barbara	Secretariat Front Office	93.16
LARSEN, Tiffany (on leave)	Existing Chemicals, GLP, Endocrine Disrupters	98.61
LYNCH, Suzanna	Chemical Accidents, Risk Management	97.90
MAEKAWA, Tetsuya	Biotechnology	76.19
ONYON, Lesley	Endocrine Disrupters	98.49
PANELI, Myropi	Biocides	14.85
RICHARDS, Jeanne	Pesticides	89.45
SCHAEFER, Bonnie	Administration	83.21
SIGMAN, Richard	Risk Management, PRTRs, New Chemicals	16.80
TAKAE, Shinichi	Existing Chemicals	76.98
TODA, Eisaku	HCL, Risk Assessment	79.07
TURNHEIM, Dian	GLP, Existing Chemicals	97.77
VISSER, Rob	Head of Division	93.15
WEINER, Rebecca	Biotechnology	16.00
WHITFIELD, Amanda	Biotechnology	76.96
WILSON, Geoff	Existing Chemicals, Biocides	16.78