CHEMICALS PROGRAMME

INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO TESTING AND ASSESSMENT (INCLUDING THE QSAR TOOLBOX)

(Q)SARs are methods for estimating properties of a chemical from its molecular structure and have the potential to provide information on hazards of chemicals, while reducing time, monetary cost and animal testing currently needed. The OECD (Q)SAR Project is developing guidance material and a "Toolbox" for practical applications of (Q)SARs by governments and industry in specific regulatory contexts.

Training material covering the new capabilities of the Version 3.1 of the OECD QSAR Toolbox has been completed. It includes several new step-by-step examples on how to address data-gap-filling for a complex endpoint such as Repeated Dose Toxicity, how to estimate toxicity of mixtures and also how to incorporate aspects of metabolism and tautomerism of the chemicals in the assessment. Updated guidance documents on profiling aquatic toxicity and genotoxicity for users of the new version of the Toolbox were also published in June 2013 on the OECD website.

Objectives and deliverables for Phase 3 of the development of the OECD QSAR Toolbox were finalised by the QSAR Toolbox Management group in April 2013 and subsequently endorsed by the Task Force for Hazard Assessment (TFHA) and the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. The implementation of the project is scheduled to start in January 2014.

At the meeting in May 2013 the Advisory Group on Molecular Screening and Toxicogenomics agreed to develop a user manual as a supplement to the existing guidance for development and assessment of Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP). A drafting group was established in June 2013 and a first draft is expected to be developed by the end of 2013.

At its meeting in June 2013 the Task Force on Hazard Assessment was briefed on the activities taking place in Australia, Denmark and Canada on the risk assessment from combined exposure to phthalates. The Task Force agreed to set up an informal discussion group to exchange experiences in performing cumulative risk assessment and to discuss the methodologies used.

The Secretariat prepared a roadmap towards the development of a framework for harmonised development and use of the Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment (IATA). The aim of this framework is to provide guidance on how to interpret results from alternative testing methods, including toxicogenomics, and how these results can be used for regulatory decision-making. As a first milestone the roadmap includes a workshop to be organised by OECD in close cooperation with the WHO during the second half of 2014 to test whether the concept of Adverse Outcome Pathway or Mode of Action can be used as a
framework for developing and using IATAs. The roadmap was subsequently endorsed by the TFHA and the Joint Meeting.

The Task Force also endorsed a proposal by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (EURL ECVAM) to establish a drafting group under the TFHA to develop a guidance document on the Evaluation and Application of Integrated Approaches to Testing and Assessment for Skin Sensitisation. The document aims to provide a framework to facilitate the interpretation of results generated by alternative methods for the assessment of skin sensitisation. The outline of the guidance document is scheduled to be finalised in 2013.

The Task Force reviewed the draft revised guidance document on grouping of chemicals and initiated a final commenting round. The revised guidance document is scheduled to be published by the end of 2013.

Following a proposal from the United States, the Task Force agreed to launch the development of an OECD QSAR guidance document. A first draft is scheduled to be available during early 2014.

**Forthcoming event(s):**

- Meeting of the QSAR Toolbox Management Group, January 2014, OECD, Paris

**Recent publication(s):**

- No. 184, Guidance Document on Developing and Assessing Adverse Outcome Pathways

**Contact:** Joop DeKnecht, Julija Filipovska

**Websites:**

- [https://community.oecd.org/community/toolbox_forum](https://community.oecd.org/community/toolbox_forum)
HAZARD ASSESSMENT

Hazard Assessment (Policies and instruments & Cooperative hazard assessments)

The Hazard Assessment Programme has evolved from the Existing Chemicals Programme and is concerned with the hazard assessment of industrial chemicals and mainly existing chemicals, i.e. the thousands of chemicals used world-wide that were put on the market before new chemical notification systems were established and whose hazards were not thoroughly evaluated by governments. Data on industrial chemicals is gathered or generated and co-operative assessments are carried out to agree on their hazards.

Eleven draft assessments for twenty three chemicals were agreed at the 4th Cooperative Chemicals Assessment Meeting (CoCAM-4) in April 2013 and all of these (except one) have been sent to Joint Meeting for declassification following endorsement by the Task Force on Hazard Assessment. For the one exception, a “special case” assessment of a chemical’s likelihood to cause skin sensitisation, finalisation will take place at CoCAM 5.

The pilot exercise in applying Globally Harmonized System (GHS) classifications at CoCAM 4 has been extended to CoCAM 5, with France, Japan, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Russia planning to take part.

Final assessments for 21 chemicals have been published in the OECD Existing Chemicals database since January 2013.

The 50th Joint Meeting in June 2013 discussed the future of the Cooperative Chemical Assessment Programme (CoCAP). The Joint Meeting decided that the focus of the programme should move towards the development and application of novel methods for assessing the hazards of chemicals, e.g. using new methods for testing and for predicting the properties of chemicals. A steering group was set up to support the Secretariat in defining the new work areas and setting future goals for CoCAP.

At its meeting in June 2013, the Task Force on Hazard Assessment (TFHA) reviewed a draft guidance document for the characterisation and naming of oleochemicals of variable composition. The purpose of the paper is to present a harmonized method for identifying oleochemical substances such that they can be named in a way that describes their composition accurately and consistently. The document is scheduled to be finalised during the second half of 2013.

The Task Force also reviewed a proposal from the European Association of Metals (EUROMETAUX) and the International Council on Mining & Metals (ICMM) for the development of guidance on the environmental assessment of metals. The Task Force supported this proposal and agreed that this guidance should focus on methodology development related to effects assessment. The preparation of the first draft is scheduled for 2014.

The 50th Joint Meeting agreed to start activities on gathering information on the most commonly used chemicals in hydraulic fracturing to investigate the availability of data regarding their hazards for human health and the environment. Preliminary results are scheduled to be presented to the 51st Joint Meeting in February 2014.
Forthcoming event(s):

- CoCAM 5, 15-17 October 2013, OECD, Washington

Contact: Joop DeKnecht, Sally de Marcellus, Valerie Frison-Beau and Dan Merckel

SAFETY OF MANUFACTURED NANOMATERIALS

Approaches for determining the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials

On the nano-scale, typically within the range of 1-100 nm in at least one dimension, the properties of materials can be different from those on a larger scale. The novel properties of nanomaterials can be applied to diverse application areas, such as in medicine, environment and energy production. Manufactured nanomaterials are already used in a number of commercial applications; which raises questions regarding potential unintended hazards to humans and the environment and whether nanomaterials need special measures to deal with potential risks. There is a need for a responsible and co-ordinated approach to ensure that potential safety issues are being addressed at the same time as the technology is developing. Therefore, OECD’s Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials (WPMN) was established to promote international co-operation in human health and environmental safety aspects of manufactured nanomaterials and its objective is to assist countries in their efforts to assess the safety implications of nanomaterials.

Council Recommendation on Nanomaterials

On 19th September 2013, the OECD Council approved a Recommendation on the Safety Testing and Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials. Amongst other things, the Recommendation notes the importance of the OECD Test Guidelines, by concluding that many of the existing guidelines are also suitable for the safety assessment of nanomaterials. At the same time, it recognises that some guidelines may need to be adapted to take into account the specific properties of nanomaterials. This is the continuing focus of the work of the WPMN on Nanomaterials and Test Guidelines.

An important consequence of the Recommendation is that much of the data collected as part of the safety assessment of nanomaterials will fall within the scope of the OECD system of Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD). Argentina, Brazil, India, Malaysia, Singapore and Singapore are not members of OECD but are full adherents to MAD. They will therefore be invited to adhere to the Recommendation on nanomaterials.

Nanomaterials and Test Guidelines

The work of the WPMN on Test Guidelines aims to address whether existing test guidelines are adequate to address nanomaterials or whether it will be necessary to develop new or adapted nano-specific test guidelines. This work builds on a publication from 2009, Preliminary Review of OECD Test Guidelines for their Applicability to Manufactured Nanomaterials, which reviewed 115 Test Guidelines and showed that most are suitable but that, in some cases, modification will be needed in order to apply them to nanomaterials.

Following on from this work, much more information has become available from a range of research projects including the OECD Sponsorship Programme for Testing Manufactured Nanomaterials (described below). This has allowed the WPMN to focus on specific groups of test guidelines to address their suitability for nanomaterials while evaluating proposals for further guideline development or revision.

A specific example was the document Inhalation Toxicity Testing: Expert Meeting on Potential Revisions to OECD Test Guidelines and Guidance Documents, which was published in June 2012. This document contains a number of proposed revisions to Test Guidelines, which were developed as a result of an expert meeting hosted by the Netherlands.
Similarly, a WPMN expert workshop was held in Berlin in January 2013 to review Test Guidelines in the areas of Ecotoxicity and Environmental Fate. Once again, the workshop report, which is still under preparation, includes conclusions and recommendations on future work related to Test Guideline development. Germany, together with other partners, will consider how best to follow-up on these recommendations. Along the same lines, a workshop on physical-chemical properties was held in cooperation with ISO on 28th February – 1st March 2013 in Mexico.

As a result of these workshops, five Standard Project Submission Forms (SPSFs) are currently under development:

- A Guideline on Inhalation Toxicity for Manufactured Nanomaterials (NMs);
- Guidance for OECD TG 305 – Bioaccumulation of NMs in Fish;
- A Guideline on Dispersion and Dispersion Stability of NMs;
- Guidance on Dissolution, Dispersion and Dispersion Stability of NMs in water, soils and sediments – Decision Tree; and
- Guidance on Aquatic Toxicity of NMs – Decision Tree.

Each of these SPSFs will be circulated simultaneously to the WNT and the WPMN in October 2013.

In the meantime, three additional expert workshops will be held to address other topics related to Test Guideline development. These workshops will focus on: i) genotoxicity (Ottawa, Canada, 18-19 November); ii) toxicokinetics (Korea, February, 2014, dates to be confirmed); and iii) categorisation of nanomaterials (Washington DC, April 2014, dates to be confirmed).

Safety Testing of a Representative Set of Manufactured Nanomaterials

This project, through the launching of a “Sponsorship Programme for Testing Manufactured Nanomaterials”, has been running since November 2007 and is now coming to an end. At WPMN-12 in December 2013 delegates will take decisions on how best to publish the data from this programme, notably on cerium dioxide, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica dioxide, iron, silver, dendrimers, gold and nanoclays. The data will also be used to inform further test guidelines development or update.

The Role of Alternative Methods in Nanotoxicology

This project aims to identify test methods for nanomaterials which avoid the use of animals. For the moment, the development of the Colony Forming Efficiency (CFE) Assay, is the main focus of this project. Eleven laboratories worldwide are taking part in an inter-laboratory study. One positive control (Na₂CrO₄) as well as 5 different nanomaterials will be tested. There will be a progress report at WPMN-12.

Cooperation on Risk Assessment

This project evaluates risk assessment approaches through information exchange and identifies ways to strengthen and enhance risk assessment capacity. The most recent publication in this area is entitled Cooperation on Risk Assessment: Prioritisation of Important Issues on Risk Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials - Final Report. As indicated in the title, it sets priorities for issues in risk assessment which the WPMN might wish to consider. Following up from this publication four pilot projects are under consideration:
• Interspecies Variability Factors in Human Health Risk Assessment;
• Physical-chemical characteristics in regulatory risk assessments – Dissolution as a function of surface chemistry;
• Survey on approaches to develop or use nanomaterial equivalence/grouping/read-across concepts based on physical-chemical properties for regulatory regimes; and
• Analysis of Physical-chemical properties for Read-across and Risk Assessment Guidance.

The next steps will be agreed at WPMN-12 in December 2013.

**Exposure Measurement and Exposure Mitigation**

The objective of this project is to exchange information on (or develop) guidance for exposure measurement and mitigation. Currently, the following projects are in various stages of development:

• Survey on available methods and models for assessing exposure;
• Compilation of responses to survey on disposal and treatment technologies;
• Techniques and sampling protocols for determining concentrations in air;
• Exposure assessment: Case studies on nano-silver and nano-gold;
• Assessment of biodurability of nanomaterials and their surface ligands;
• Harmonised tiered approach to measure and assess the airborne exposure to engineered nano-objects in the workplace; and
• Strategy for distinguishing Carbon Nanotubes from background aerosols.

The next steps will be considered at WPMN-12 in December 2013.

**Environmentally Sustainable Use of Manufactured Nanomaterials**

This project addresses the potential of nano-based applications to address environmental challenges such as climate change, pollution of water/soil/air and natural resource depletion. It covers the potential negative impacts that new technologies may have on human health and environment.

Currently, a draft Guidance Manual on a Life Cycle Analysis case study of Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes is in preparation. Currently, it includes the outline of the project and its main contents. It will be considered at WPMN-12.

**Sustainable Development of Tyres: Case study involving nanotechnology**

This is a joint project with OECD’s Working Party on Nanotechnology (WPN), which is a subsidiary body of the Committee for Science and Technology Policy (CSTP). This report is close to completion and will be presented to WPMN-12 for declassification.

**Forthcoming Event(s):**

• OECD Expert Meeting on Genotoxicity of Manufactured Nanomaterials, 18-19 November 2013 - Ottawa, Canada

• 12th Meeting of the Working Party of Manufactured Nanomaterials, 11-13 December 2013 - Paris, France; back-to-back meetings will be held on: i) Risk Assessment and Regulatory Programmes (9th December); and ii) Testing and Assessment (10th December)

• OECD Expert Meeting on Toxicokinetics, February 2014 (Exact date to be confirmed) - Korea
OECD Expert Meeting on Categorization of Manufactured Nanomaterials, April 2014 (Exact date to be confirmed) - Washington D.C., United States

Recent Publication(s):

- Current Developments on the Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials - Tour de Table at the 10th Meeting of the Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials
- Co-operation on Risk Assessment: Prioritisation of Important Issues on Risk Assessment of Manufactured Nanomaterials - Final Report
- Environmentally Sustainable Use of Manufactured Nanomaterials - Workshop held on 14 September 2011 in Rome, Italy

Contacts: Peter Kearns, Mar Gonzalez, Asako Aoyagi, Hoseok Song, Carolina Tronco Valencia and Christiana Oladini-James

Email: nanosafety@oecd.org

EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT

Risk to human health and the environment posed by chemicals is determined by chemical-specific hazard properties and the extent of exposure to chemicals. OECD assists member countries in developing and harmonising methods for assessing the exposure of chemicals to human health and the environment.

The Task Force on Exposure Assessment (TFEA) has initiated work on three new activities to:

1. compile available guidance used for assessing combined exposures to multiple chemicals,
2. compile available testing guidelines used for assessing exposure to chemicals emitted or migrated from products, and
3. develop an inventory of information on emissions/releases and exposures from products.

Two questionnaires corresponding to 1) and 2) above have been circulated to the members of the Task Force.

The draft results from a 2012 survey on removal predictions of wastewater treatment for exposure assessment and PRTRs have been compiled and circulated to the Task Force. The document provides results of a joint project with the Task Force on PRTRs. The TFEA will review this document at its meeting in November 2013.

The revised Emission Scenario Document (ESD) on wood preservatives, developed by the Task Force on Biocides, was published in September 2013. The following eight new or revised ESDs are currently being developed:

1. formulation and application of thermal and carbonless copy paper,
2. chemical vapour deposition in the semiconductor industry,
3. use of adhesives,
4. textile dyeing,
5. use of industrial cleaners,
6. case study on plastic additives,
7. metals from waste disposal, and
8. application of paint solvent to industrial coating.

The Task Force continues to make progress on other on-going projects such as gathering use pattern information and developing a harmonised template to gather and exchange exposure information. The Task Force agreed to discuss a proposal on a new matrix project on ESDs and Specific Environmental Release Classes (SpERCs) at the next Task Force meeting. The proposed project is to develop a table to describe which areas or products are covered by ESDs or SpERCs, and identify where new ESDs may be needed.
Forthcoming event(s):

- 5th Meeting of the Task Force on Exposure Assessment, 14-15 November 2013, Geneva

Recent publication(s):

- Revised Emission Scenario Document for Wood Preservatives (developed by the Task Force on Biocides)

Contact: Hirofumi Aizawa
Website: http://www.oecd.org/env/exposure
METHODOLOGIES FOR ASSESSING THE RISKS OF CHEMICALS TO CHILDREN

Children are more vulnerable than adults to environmental hazards, such as those presented by chemicals, owing to their different physiological, metabolic factors and activity levels. OECD has initiated an activity to help support governments assess the risk of chemicals to children.

A new document, developed by the Task Force on Exposure Assessment (TFEA) and the Task Force on Hazard Assessment, was published on 24 September 2013. This document - Assessing the risk of chemicals to children’s health: an OECD-wide survey - outlines the methodologies and tools currently used to assess the risk of chemicals to children’s health, and identifies possible needs for additional guidance or tools based on the results of an online survey conducted in November 2011. The following areas of risk assessment are covered: definitions, hazard and exposure assessment, risk characterisation, cohort studies and combined exposure to multiple chemicals.

The Netherlands hosted a Workshop on Children’s Exposure to Chemicals in Utrecht on 7-8 October 2013. The aim of the workshop was to discuss key exposure scenarios and pathways specific to children for future input to guidance and/or emission scenario document development. Experts discussed methodologies to assess children’s exposure and develop a discussion paper for the Task Force meeting in November.

In addition, the TFEA is working to compile information, identified by the survey, which would be useful as guidance regarding the assessment of the risks to children from exposure to chemicals.

Forthcoming event(s):

- 5th Meeting of the Task Force on Exposure Assessment, 14-15 November 2013, Geneva

Recent publication(s):

- Assessing the risk of chemicals to children’s health: an OECD-wide survey

Contact: Hirofumi Aizawa

Website: [http://www.oecd.org/env/hazard](http://www.oecd.org/env/hazard)

NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING TOOLS

The development of I.T. Tools at OECD focuses on the harmonization of electronic formats for exchanging information on chemicals. These formats can then be used for the development of databases or regulatory submission tools in countries, ensuring that data gathered in one country can be exchanged seamlessly with other countries without reformatting or that electronic dossiers developed for submission in one country can be submitted to multiple countries or jurisdictions.

New Chemicals

The OECD Clearing House on New Chemicals manages activities that focus on work related to the notification and assessment of new chemicals (including polymers). The main objectives of the Clearing House are to:

1) undertake and facilitate work aimed at streamlining the New Chemicals notification processes;
2) enhance the exchange of information and work sharing on new chemical notification and assessments;
3) facilitate greater mutual recognition of assessments; and
4) progress towards mutual acceptance of notifications.

The Clearing House held its latest annual meeting in Medan, Indonesia from 22 to 23 June, 2013. For the fourth consecutive year, the annual Clearing House meeting was scheduled in conjunction with the annual meeting of the APEC Chemical Dialog Regulators’ Forum to enable Clearing House members and APEC members to attend both meetings. The 2nd day of this Clearing House meeting was a joint meeting with the APEC Regulators’ Forum. Government and/or industry representatives from Australia, Canada, Chile, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the People’s Republic of China, the Philippines, the United States, and Vietnam participated in the meeting.

Most recently, the work of the OECD Clearing House has focused on two major activities. The first of these is a project to identify common candidate substances for the lists of approved polyester reactants. Under this project, industry has nominated chemical substances to be considered for addition to the “polyester approved reactant lists” that delineate those polyesters qualifying as “polymers of low concern” under US TSCA, Canada CEPA and Australia NICNAS jurisdictions. An initial solicitation of industry was made in 2011 and a second solicitation was made in 2012. The response was very encouraging, with over 100 substances being nominated. Following the Polymer Workshop held in Washington in October 2011, the concept of an Equivalency Principle and associated criteria were agreed upon, and a guidance document was prepared to assist those preparing dossiers in support of nominated substances. Two categories of nominations were solicited:

1) monomers/reactants consistent with the provisions of the Equivalency Principle, and which are of serious commercial interest; and

2) monomers/reactants which, subject to an initial screening, will then require the preparation of supporting dossiers by industry.
The initial screening of the nominations has recently been completed and letters have been sent to the nominators with the results. Dossiers are expected to be submitted to Australia NICNAS, Health Canada, Environment Canada, and the US EPA for review by the end of 2013.

The Clearing House has also been exploring the feasibility of developing a computer program that will enable notifiers to enter and store the information elements required for notifications and then generate the completed notification forms, both as a printed hard copy and as an electronic file (with the individual information elements identified via XML "tags"). Efforts have focused on soliciting technical advice/support from industry, academic and government experts.

At the 2013 Clearing House meeting in Medan, the Clearing House members decided to begin planning for two new initiatives. The first would be a workshop (or series of workshops) that would bring together international expertise (government, industry, academia) to discuss current methods for analogue identification for new chemical and data-poor substance assessments. The workshop would compare approaches for read-across, develop criteria or best practices for selecting analogues for various endpoints, and evaluate the potential for a harmonized international approach for new substance evaluation. Because there is potential overlap with activities of the OECD Task Force on Hazard Assessment (TFHA), it was agreed that the TFHA should be informed of this activity and given the opportunity to participate in the planning process.

The second new initiative would be to conduct a survey to explore the ways new chemical exposure assessments are conducted in each jurisdiction, including what information is considered, what uses are included in the regulatory framework, and what tools and resources are used. It was agreed to review previous work on this issue by OECD Task Force on Exposure Assessment during the development of the CHNC survey and to liaise with them on future activities once the survey results are obtained.

Contact: Richard Sigman

Website: http://www.oecd.org/env/newchemicals

Harmonised Templates

Thirteen OHTs for specific endpoints for nanomaterials are currently undergoing final editing of their html, xsd and xml files. These were adopted by the Joint Meeting in June 2013.

For twelve revised OHTs (checked and agreed by the OHT Expert Group), the corresponding html, xsd and xml files are currently being prepared.

Five additional revised templates (3 OHTs on physical-chemical properties and 2 OHTs on health effects) were launched in September 2013. The aim is to update these OHTs to incorporate revised (or new) recently adopted Test Guidelines (dealing with density; pH; viscosity; and carcinogenicity issues).

In addition to the regular exchange of information, collaboration with Metapath project was increased from June with the aim to harmonise the data structure in Metapath with the OHTs. It was agreed to start working on the template on residues in livestock.

Contact: Bertrand Dagallier

Website: http://www.oecd.org/ehs/templates/
IUCLID

IUCLID (International Uniform Chemical Information Database) is a software tool used to capture and store, submit, and exchange data on chemical substances stored according to the OECD Harmonised Templates for Reporting Chemical Test Summaries (OHTs). The objective of the OECD IUCLID Users Group Expert Panel is to collect and discuss user needs in terms of the User Interface of IUCLID, to develop additional guidance documents for users for entering data into IUCLID using the Robust Study Summary format and to develop training course materials for instructing new users on using the IUCLID software and the Guidance Documents.

The first update of IUCLID 5.5., IUCLID 5.5.1, was published in September 2013, including functionalities to more efficiently export annotations and export information to prepare chemical safety assessments. All files generated with IUCLID 5.5.1 remain compatible with IUCLID 5.5.

The OECD IUCLID User Group Expert Panel met on 25-26 September 2013. The Meeting discussed the analysis performed in 2013 for IUCLID 6 functionalities and refined user requirements for analysis for IUCLID 6 to be performed in 2014. The development of IUCLID 6 started in 2012 for a duration of 2 years.

Contact: Sally de Marcellus
The Test Guidelines Programme develops Test Guidelines and related documents needed to undertake the first step in chemical regulation – testing for health and environmental hazards.

New, updated or corrected Test Guidelines

The following new, updated or corrected Test Guidelines were adopted by the OECD Council on 26 July 2013.

**New Test Guidelines:**

Section 1: Physical-Chemical Properties

122 Determination of pH, acidity and alkalinity

Section 2: Effects on Biotic Systems

236 Fish Embryo Acute Toxicity Test
237 Honeybee larval toxicity test, single exposure

Section 5: Other Test Guidelines

New Introduction to the Test Guidelines Series 500-Part A on Pesticides Residue Chemistry

**Updated Test Guidelines:**

Section 2: Effects on Biotic Systems

210 Fish Early Life-Stage Toxicity Test

Section 4: Health Effects

430 *In vitro* skin corrosion (transcutaneous electric resistance)
431 *In vitro* skin corrosion (human skin model)
437 *Ex vivo* eye corrosion (bovine corneal opacity and permeability)
438 *Ex vivo* eye corrosion (isolated chicken eye)
439 *In vitro* skin irritation
488 Transgenic rodent somatic and germ cell mutation assay

**Corrected Test Guidelines:**

Section 3: Degradation and Accumulation

301F Ready biodegradation test
Information on some other important issues and projects

Testing on aquatic invertebrates

A meeting of the Expert Group took place on 17-18 June 2013 at OECD in Paris. Several draft new Test Guidelines were discussed:

1) a Mysid 2-generation test and

2) a Copepod development and reproduction test.

The validation of the Mollusc partial life-cycle test was also discussed. The two draft new Test Guidelines were circulated to the Working Group of the National Coordinators of the Test Guidelines Programme for a commenting round during August-September 2013.

Advisory Group on Molecular Screening and Toxicogenomics

The Advisory Group met on 14-15 May 2013 at OECD in Paris. The meeting reviewed progress with all projects on the work plan for the development of Adverse Outcome Pathways (AOP). The Advisory Group also discussed the process, roles, responsibilities and the web tools for the development of these AOPs. The Advisory Group agreed on the development of an AOP-Knowledge Base, led by the EU Joint Research Centre and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The Advisory Group agreed to share information on the public site on a dedicated page to address the growing interest in AOPs: [http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/testing/adverse-outcome-pathways-molecular-screening-and-toxicogenomics.htm](http://www.oecd.org/env/ehs/testing/adverse-outcome-pathways-molecular-screening-and-toxicogenomics.htm), including a succinct work plan. The Advisory Group established a drafting group to develop a user manual as a supplement to the existing guidance on AOP development. Another drafting group was established to develop guidance for the description of non-standardised assays, including high throughput and high content assays. Both drafting groups agreed on an action plan and a timeframe. Drafts are expected to be developed by the end of 2013.

Forthcoming event(s):

- Meeting of the Validation Management Group for Ecotoxicity Testing, 21-22 October 2013, Washington, United States
- Meeting of the Genotoxicity Expert Groups, 20-22 November, Ottawa, Canada
- Meeting of the Validation Management Group for Non Animal Testing, 3-5 December 2013, OECD, Paris, France
- Meeting of Experts on Skin Irritation/Corrosion, 9-10 December, Berlin, Germany
- Teleconference of the Extended Advisory Group on Molecular Screening, Toxicogenomics and Adverse Outcome Pathways, 10 December 2013
- Meeting of regulators and National Coordinators on the Cell Transformation Assays, 14-16 January 2014, OECD, Paris
- Meeting of the Working Group of the National Coordinators of the Test guidelines Programme, 8-11 April 2014, Paris

Recent publication(s):

- No 151: Draft guidance document on the Extended One-Generation Reproductive Toxicity Study,
- No 186: Guidance Document on the Efficacy of Baits against Ants,
No 187: Guidance Document on Quantitative Methods for Evaluating the Efficacy of Microbicides,

No 188: Streamlined Summary Document Supporting OECD Test Guideline 438 on the Isolated Chicken Eye for Eye Irritation/Corrosion:

No 189: Streamlined Summary Document Supporting OECD Guideline 437 on the Bovine Corneal Opacity and Permeability for Eye Irritation/Corrosion

No 190: Summary Document on the Statistical performance of test methods included in TG 431 for the sub-categorisation,

No 191: Validation Report of a Ring Test for the OECD 305 Dietary Exposure Bioaccumulation Fish Test, Additional Report Including Results Using a Lower Feeding Rate

Contact: Anne Gourmelon, Nathalie Delrue, Marie-Chantal Huet, Julija Filipovska, Hiro Aizawa and Kenji Nakano

Website: www.oecd.org/env/testguidelines
The Working Group on Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) works to facilitate and support the implementation by Member countries and interested non-members of the Council Acts related to Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD), by promoting a common understanding of, and harmonised approaches to, technical and administrative matters related to Good Laboratory Practice and monitoring of compliance with the GLP Principles. These Principles are quality standards for the organisation and management of test facilities and for performing and reporting studies.

The 27th meeting of the Working Group on GLP was held on 16-18 April 2013 in Paris. Six on-site evaluations, conducted in 2012, were agreed at the meeting: Austria, Hungary, France, Australia, Japan (chemicals), and Japan (pesticides, veterinary drugs and feed additives). In 2013, one on-site evaluation visit was completed (the Netherlands; 8-12 April, 2013) and another is scheduled (New Zealand; 11-15 November). The results from the visits will be considered at the 28th Working Group meeting (7-8 April, 2014). A guidance document, Revised Procedures and Processes for the On-Site Evaluation of National GLP Compliance Monitoring Programmes, agreed at the 27th Working Group meeting, was endorsed at the 50th Joint Meeting (June, 2013). The Working Group also agreed a draft guidance document on peer review of histopathology, which has been submitted to the Joint Meeting for declassification under written procedure. Three other guidance documents are under preparation - “Test Items”, “IT-related issues”, and “Quality Assurance” – as well as a separate document to address frequently asked questions. All are being prepared in response to comments from industry associations on issues that impact their business.

Preparations continue for the 11th OECD GLP training course which will be held in Chiba, Japan from 28 to 31 October, 2013. The training course, which will focus on quality assurance and computer system validation, will comprise a one day basic course, and a three day advanced course.

Forthcoming events:

- 11th OECD GLP Training Course - Chiba, Japan, 28-31 October, 2013
- 28th Meeting of the Working Group on GLP – Las Vegas, US, 7-8 April, 2014

Contact: Richard Sigman and Kenji Nakano

MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE OF DATA

The 1981 OECD Council Decision on the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) is built on the OECD Test Guidelines and Principles of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). It requires OECD governments to accept non-clinical environment and health safety data developed for regulatory purposes in another country if these data were generated in accordance with the Test Guidelines and GLP Principles, thus increasing efficiency and effectiveness of chemical notification and (re-)registration procedures for governments and industry. A 1989 Council Decision-Recommendation on Compliance with GLP sets the framework for recognition of compliance assurance among governments. The MAD system has been open to non-OECD countries since 1997.

On 29 March 2013, Malaysia joined other non-members Argentina, Brazil, India, Singapore and South Africa as a full adherent to MAD. Non-clinical health and environmental safety data generated in these countries must be accepted for regulatory purposes in OECD and other adhering countries. At the moment, full adherence for Argentina and Brazil only applies to industrial chemicals, pesticides and biocides. Currently, Thailand is a provisional adherent to the Mutual Acceptance of Data system. The Secretariat continues to work with China, Chinese Taipei, the Russian Federation, and several other countries, in view of their interest in adherence to the MAD Council Acts as well.

The Working Group on GLP implements on-site evaluation visits of national compliance monitoring programmes which are provisional adherents to MAD and are ready to be considered for full adherence. An on-site evaluation team from Spain, Belgium and India visited the GLP Compliance Monitoring Programmes in Thailand in January, 2012 and the report was considered at the 27th meeting of the Working Group on GLP (16-18 April 2013). A follow-up visit with an on-site evaluation team from Belgium, the Netherlands and India, is under preparation.

Contact: Richard Sigman and Kenji Nakano

Websites: OECD Enlargement
MAD public website
The OECD eChemPortal, launched in 2007, offers free public access to information on properties and hazards of chemicals. It provides direct access to critical scientific information prepared for government chemical review programmes. eChemPortal allows for simultaneous search of data from multiple international databases and provides clearly described sources and quality of data.

Addition of new database

Three new data sources were recently added as participants in the search by chemical substance functionality of eChemPortal:

- The Gefahrstoffdatenbank der Länder includes German hazardous substances legislation as well as other sources reflecting the state of technology and occupational health and safety relating to activities involving hazardous substances. In addition, it contains links to various other German data bases.
- The Categorization Results from Canada Database (CCR) containing the categorization results for substances on the Canadian Domestic substance list now contains supporting data on Human health regarding potential for exposure, previous assessments, simple hazard assessment and complex hazard assessment.
- The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) database of completed chemical reviews includes (in some cases) detailed risk assessment reports addressing human health and the environment.

Currently eChemPortal contains approximately 1,470,000 links to records in participating data sources:

- 803,592 records allowing a search by substance identification.
- 672,717 records containing endpoint data.

The database of chemical names contains approximately 33,180 synonyms, trade names and chemical names in Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish.

In addition, a new page has been added to eChemPortal explaining how the structure search in the OECD QSAR Toolbox may be used in order to find information via eChemPortal for a chemical substance whose chemical name is unknown or to find information on chemical substances with a similar structure to a specific chemical.

Website: http://www.oecd.org/ehs/eChemPortal

Contact: Sally de Marcellus
DISSEMINATION OF OECD PRODUCTS

All of the products of the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme are available free of charge to the general public via the internet. Additional work is devoted to improving the overall dissemination and the use of the products of the Environment, Health and Safety Programme.

OECD Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit

The Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit is a set of web pages which give access to practical tools on environmental risk assessment and management of chemicals. It describes the work flow of environmental risk assessment and management with links to relevant OECD products that can be used in each step of the work flow.

The Toolkit was re-released in the form of an interactive web application in December 2012. This sets the stage for further developments of both the content and functionalities of the toolkit over the coming years. In 2013, several examples on how to use the toolkit are expected to be added. Proposals to add three new examples – on metals, air pollution, and POPs/PBTs - have been approved by both the Task Force on Exposure Assessment and the Task Force on Hazard Assessment. Text for the draft examples will be provided to the Task Forces for review in October 2013.

Contact: Hirofumi Aizawa, Valérie Frison Beau

Websites: http://envriskassessmenttoolkit.oecd.org
The Ad Hoc Group on the Substitution of Harmful Chemicals is developing tools and approaches to support decision-making for the substitution of hazardous chemicals. The current workplan foresees the development of a literature review, an inventory of substitution tools and of an online tool to help users identify the tools best suited for their purpose.

The work plan of the Ad Hoc Group was endorsed by the Joint Meeting in June 2013.

In parallel, the Ad Hoc Group has been working on a paper that describes the “Current Landscape of Alternatives Assessment Practice”, based on a literature review. This paper has been submitted to the Joint Meeting for declassification and is expected to be published by the end of 2013. The Group is also discussing key elements of an online tool that would allow users to sort through an inventory of “substitution” tools and help them find the tools best suited to their purpose.

**Forthcoming event:**

- A workshop, Q1 or Q2 2014

**Contact:** Peter Börkey
The Risk Management Programme is concerned with the final step in chemical oversight: how to manage the use of chemical products so that society can take advantage of their benefits while minimising risks. It develops tools for OECD governments and facilitates information exchange about successful risk management approaches.

Perfluorinated chemicals

The efforts of the Global PFC Group are focused on the development of a collection of PFC synthesis papers on uses, scientific insights, alternatives and regulatory approaches. An advanced draft version was presented on 29 April 2013 at a side-event at the Convention of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention in Geneva, involving presentations from UNEP (an overview) and Germany (specifically focusing on scientific insights). The synthesis papers have now been finalised and endorsed by the Joint Meeting. The publication is available from the OECD PFC Web Portal and has already been distributed at two regional SAICM meetings in Europe and Latin America. Several webinars are planned to disseminate key messages from these papers to a broader audience, the first of which will be taking place at the end of November 2013.

Contact: Peter Börkey

Recent publication(s):

- Synthesis paper on per and polyfluorinated chemicals

Websites:
- http://www.oecd.org/ehs/pfc
OTHER EHS PROGRAMMES

PESTICIDES

The Pesticide Programme aims to harmonise the testing and assessment of agricultural pesticides and to promote work sharing and risk reduction. It achieves this by helping OECD countries to co-operate in the review of both chemical and biological pesticides used in agriculture.

The Residue Chemistry Expert Group (RCEG) continues its work on a revision of the Crop Field Trial Guidance Document and the development of a Rotational Crop Field Trial Guidance Document.

As part of the pesticide risk reduction activities, the new Expert Group on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is starting to implement specific activities according to its work plan, in the areas of:

1) communication (i.e. an OECD website on IPM is under development),
2) incentives (i.e. a survey is being carried out in view of developing a guidance document), and
3) IPM indicators (as a follow-up to the November 2012 Seminar on IPM indicators that addressed both “uptake” and “impact” indicators).

The OECD Expert Group on Pesticide Risk Indicators (EGPRI) was re-established in 2012 and met for the first time on 28 February-1 March 2013. At the request of the RRSG, the meeting agreed on a template for developing an overview of existing risk indicators according to various evaluation criteria, in view of preparing proposals for further work to the next meeting of the Risk Reduction Steering Group in October. The EGPRI will meet again in Paris on 8 October.

In the area of compliance and enforcement, a new network of government officials is starting its activities with the development of an OECD public website. The OECD Network on Illegal trade of Pesticides (ONIP) met on 16-17 May 2013, and is developing options for strengthening the fight against illegal international trade of agricultural pesticides.

Two risk reduction surveys are being analysed and corresponding reports are being prepared. The first is linked to a survey on the assessment of the risks from obsolete pesticide stocks in OECD countries and second to a survey on the management options relating to pesticide use in residential areas.

Concerning the OECD activities on bio-pesticides (i.e. biological pesticides such as micro-organisms, fungi, pheromones), Sweden hosted a workshop on microbial pesticides (“assessment and management of risks”) in Saltsjöbaden near Stockholm in June 2013. The workshop was co-organised by OECD with the European Commission and KemI (the Swedish Chemicals Agency) and was attended by over 80 participants from 22 countries and other relevant organisations (i.e. European Commission, EFSA, ECHA, the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA), other representatives from the pesticide, biocide and bio-pesticide industry, and experts from academia). It discussed scientific, technical and regulatory issues in plenary and break-out group sessions. Workshop participants developed a series of
conclusions and recommendations outlining that for micro-organisms used as pesticides “biology is the difference” (compared to chemical pesticides), stressing the need for further research and work, and identifying pragmatic approaches to be taken with currently available information and suggesting solutions for the future in 20 work areas.

**Forthcoming events:**

- Week of 7-11 October 2013 (OECD, Paris, France):
  - Registration Steering Group Meeting
  - Risk Reduction Steering Group Meeting
  - Meeting of the Expert Group on Pesticides Effects on Insect Pollinators
  - 4th Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Minor Uses, OECD, Paris, France
  - 2nd Meeting of the OECD Expert Group on Pesticide Risk Indicators (EGPRI)
- 31 March-4 April 2014 (OECD, Paris, France)
  - 29th Working Group on Pesticides Meeting
  - BioPesticides Steering Group meeting
- 22-23 May 2014, Meeting of the Expert Group on the Electronic Exchange of Pesticides Data (EGEEPD), OECD, Paris, France

**Recent Publication(s):**

- Guidance Document on Residues in Livestock

**Contact:** Sylvie Poret and Dan Merckel

**Website:** [http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides](http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides)
Work on Biocides (non-agricultural pesticides) closely parallels the work on agricultural pesticides: harmonisation of testing of product release rates to the environment and efficacy to ensure the validity of label claims, producing emission scenarios and promoting sharing of information about risk reduction approaches.

Work on efficacy of biocides focused on:

1) microbicides used on hard non-porous surfaces: A Guidance Document on Quantitative Methods for Evaluating the Activity of Microbicides used on Hard Non-porous Surface that contains four test methods: bactericidal, mycobactericidal, fungicidal and virucidal was published in June 2013 as No. 187 in the Series on Testing and Assessment and No. 6 in the Series on Biocides.

2) biocides used to treat articles: a draft Test Guideline for assessing efficacy of antimicrobial treated articles – porous surfaces (textiles) and non-porous surfaces (plastics) – circulated for a first review round until February 2013 is being revised in view of a second commenting round to take place by the end of the year; and

3) efficacy of baits against ants: A Guidance Document on the Testing of Efficacy of Baits, for Indoor Use, against Garden Ants was published in July 2013 as No. 186 in the Series on Testing and Assessment and No. 7 in the Series on Biocides.


The Expert Group on Biocides Chemistry (EGBS) is developing guidance on the validation of analytical methods and on the storage stability of biocidal products. A first draft Guidance Document on Single Laboratory Validation and Calibration of Quantitative Analytical Methods for Biocidal and Pesticidal Products, circulated for review in April-June 2013 is being revised in view of a second review round to take place by the end of the year.

The revised Emission Scenario Document (ESD) on Wood Preservatives was published on 27 September 2013. The publication of this revised ESD has been eagerly anticipated, as the document is recognised as being an essential tool for authorities and the chemical industry dealing with the assessment of wood preservatives.

Work being led by France on estimating emissions for insecticides for vector control continues.

The 11th meeting of the Task Force on Biocides (TFB) took place in Sweden on 19 – 20th June 2013 together with a workshop on assessment and management of risks of microbial pesticides used as agricultural pesticides and biocides (see the section on bio-pesticides above for more information about the workshop). At the TFB meeting, results of a survey on aggregate exposure/risk of biocides for human health were discussed, and follow-up work at the OECD to produce two case studies that illustrate assessment approaches was identified. The results of the Member Country survey on performance standards and related authorised label claims for microbicides were also discussed; follow-up work will look at how levels of soiling on articles to be treated and contact time with the microbicide are taken into account in Member Countries. It is hoped that this work will lead to a new Guidance Document.
**Forthcoming event(s):**

- 12th Meeting of the Task Force on Biocides, 30th June - 1st July 2014, Paris

**Recent Publication(s):**

- Guidance Document on the Testing of Efficacy of Baits, for Indoor Use, Against Garden Ants
- Guidance Document on Quantitative Methods for evaluating the activity of Microbicides used on hard non-porous surfaces
- Revised Emission Scenario Document for Wood Preservatives

**Contact:** Sylvie Poret and Dan Merckel

**Website:** [http://www.oecd.org/env/biocides](http://www.oecd.org/env/biocides)
The Chemical Accidents Programme works to develop guidance on prevention of, preparedness for, and response to chemical accidents. It facilitates the sharing of information and experiences of both OECD and non-member countries. The Programme is managed by the Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA).

The Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA) will meet on 4-6 November 2013 to discuss progress in implementing the following projects:

1) exchanging information regarding accidents involving manufactured nanomaterials;
2) assessing the usefulness of the Guidance for Senior Leaders in High Hazard Industries;
3) Ageing of hazardous Installations; and
4) Managing Hazardous Facilities which Shift Ownership from Safety-Oriented Companies to Companies with More Limited Understanding and Awareness of Safety

The WGCA is also expected to endorse a new addendum for the Guiding Principles\(^1\) which will provide guidance related to Natural-Hazard Triggered Technological accidents (NATECH).

This meeting will also be the occasion for celebrating the 25\(^{th}\) Anniversary of the OECD Programme on Chemical Accidents. A special event will be held on the 5\(^{th}\) November.

Finally, the Guidance for Senior Leaders in High Hazard Industries has been translated into nine languages.

**Forthcoming Events:**

- 23\(^{rd}\) Meeting of the Working Group on Chemical Accidents and 25\(^{th}\) Anniversary of the OECD Programme on Chemical Accidents, 4-6 November 2013, OECD, Paris

**Recent Publication(s):**

- Spanish and Russian version of the Corporate Governance for Process Safety - Guidance for Senior Leaders in High Hazard Industries (also available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Norwegian, and Swedish).

**Contact:** Mar Gonzalez

**Websites:** [http://www.oecd.org/env/accidents](http://www.oecd.org/env/accidents)

\(^1\) The *Guiding Principles for Chemical Accidents Prevention, Preparedness and Response* address all aspects of preventing and managing chemical accidents.
POLLUTANT RELEASE AND TRANSFER REGISTERS (PRTRs)

PRTRs are databases of selected pollutant releases to air, water and soil, and of wastes transferred off-site for treatment or disposal. The programme aims to help individual countries in developing PRTRs, improving release estimation techniques and sharing of data between countries.

Work on PRTR continues, with a focus on improving the use of PRTR data through:

1) reviewing and updating the published Resource Compendium for PRTR Release Estimation Techniques for diffuse sources including releases from products;
2) developing guidance on the elements of a global PRTR; and
3) maintaining and updating the web-based portal and databases.

The Task Force on PRTRs has agreed on a proposal to restructure the Resource Compendium for PRTR Release Estimation Techniques from the current four parts into three parts by merging part 2 diffuse sources and part 4 releases from products.

The Task Force reviewed a preliminary draft guidance document on the elements of a global PRTR. The document outlines common elements among different PRTRs based on results from two completed activities that produced proposals for harmonised lists of reporting sectors and pollutants. The Task Force will be invited to agree on the final draft at the next Task Force meeting in November 2013.

The draft results from a 2012 survey on removal predictions of wastewater treatment for exposure assessment and PRTRs have been compiled and circulated to the Task Force. The Task Forces on PRTRs and Exposure Assessment will review this document.

The Task Force will hold its 16th meeting in November 2013 in Geneva. It will hold a joint session with the UNECE Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs. The 5th meeting of the Task Force on Exposure Assessment will be held back-to-back with the Task Force on PRTR.

Forthcoming event(s):

- 16th Meeting of the Task Force on PRTRs, 18-19 November 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

Contact: Hirofumi Aizawa
Website: http://www.oecd.org/env/prtr
HARMONISATION OF REGULATORY OVERSIGHT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

The programme on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology focuses on environmental risk/safety assessment of transgenic (genetically modified) crops as well as other organisms of commercial interest. It aims to ensure that the information used in risk/safety assessment, as well as the methods used to collect this information, is as similar as possible among regulatory authorities. This improves mutual understanding amongst countries, increases the efficiency of the risk/safety assessment process and avoids duplication of effort. It also reduces barriers to trade.

Based on the agreements made at the 27th plenary meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology on 8-10 April 2013, considerable progress was made:

- the document on the Low Level Presence of transgenic plants in seed and grain commodities was published in September;
- the Steering Group on Environmental Considerations for risk/safety assessment of transgenic plants held a teleconference in June and made progress with the final draft of the document;
- the planning group on New Plant Breeding Techniques prepared a questionnaire, that was circulated in September; a workshop is scheduled for February 2014; and
- the Consensus Document on the Biology of Sugarcane is expected to be completed by the end of September and is to be published by the end of the year.

Significant progress was also made on other projects, including on a consensus document on the Biology of Sorghum; documents on the biology of cowpea and cassava species, of micro-algae, and of the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* which is the primary vector of dengue fever, a neglected tropical disease.

**Forthcoming event(s):**

- Workshop on New Plant Breeding Techniques, 10 February 2014, OECD Paris, France
- 28th meeting of the Working Group on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology, 10-13 February 2014, OECD Paris, France

**Recent Publications:**

- Low-level presence of transgenic plants in seed and grain commodities: Environmental Risk/Safety assessment, and availability and use of information.

**Contact:** Kazuyuki Suwabe, Peter Kearns, and Bertrand Dagallier

**Website:** BioTrack Online (http://www.oecd.org/biotrack)
SAFETY OF NOVEL FOODS AND FEEDS

The programme on the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds addresses risk/safety assessment issues related to the products of modern biotechnology, that is, foods and feeds derived from transgenic crops. This improves mutual understanding amongst countries, increases the efficiency of the risk/safety assessment process and avoids duplication of effort, while reducing barriers to trade.

The consensus document on compositional considerations of the oyster mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) has been finalised and is expected to be published by the end of the year.

Progress was made with the documents on the common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) and rice (*Oryza sativa*). Brazil and Japan, respective lead countries for these projects, will prepare a revised version by mid-December 2013. A project proposal for elaborating a consensus document on compositional considerations of apple has been drafted for review by the Task Force at the next plenary meeting in February 2014.

The Task Force is also engaged on a project on Animal Composition Data. At this stage, the aim is to identify whether or not a similar approach can be used in the safety assessment of novel foods derived from animals as has been used in the assessment of foods/feeds derived from crop plants. In other words, to assess whether it is possible to compare such a novel food with a conventional variety based on the composition of the food.

Project proposals on a) mutual recognition of LLP risk assessments, and b) alternatives to whole food animal testing are in early stages of development.

Forthcoming event(s):

- 21<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Task Force for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds, 6-7 February 2014, OECD, Paris, France
- Workshop on New Plant Breeding Techniques, 10 February 2014, OECD Paris, France

Contact(s): Bertrand Dagallier, Kazuyuki Suwabe, Peter Kearns

Website: BioTrack Online: [http://www.oecd.org/biotrack](http://www.oecd.org/biotrack)
THE GLOBAL FORUM ON BIOTEchnology

The Global Forum on Biotechnology, established in 2010, is one of 14 Global Forums created by OECD Committees. Global Forums are generally not official OECD bodies, but are best described as broad communities or networks of stakeholders in the areas of responsibility of one or more Committees. OECD Committees have an interest in hearing the views of these stakeholders, but their capacity to accommodate non-Member observers is limited.

Efforts are being pursued to develop contacts with key partners, and in particular to renew co-operation with India and China, while strengthening collaboration with Indonesia, aiming to their active participation at the 2014 plenary meetings.

The Secretariat visited India to attend the South Asia Biosafety Conference and Workshop, organised by the Center for Environmental Risk Assessment on 15-20 September 2013. The usefulness of the OECD biosafety documents as tools in risk/safety assessment of GMOs was restated with Indian Authorities (two ministries), the Biotech Consortium India Ltd, as well as with participants from other countries in the region. India intends to participate actively in the OECD biosafety and food safety activities and to send a representative to the plenary meetings in early 2014.

The Secretariat will visit China (Beijing) and Indonesia (Jakarta) to meet biosafety and novel food/feed safety authorities in October.

Contacts: Bertrand Dagallier
STAFF IN THE EHS DIVISION

Since the last Environment, Health and Safety News (No. 29, issued in February 2013), the EHS Division has seen the following changes in staffing:

- Jill Gibb has taken up a temporary assignment and Camilla Francis replaces her as the assistant to the head of division and to the Joint Meeting.
- Sanela Bajrovic has replaced Camilla Francis as the assistant to the Test Guidelines team.
- Ivy Brasil Turner replaced Anna Söderström in October as an assistant for Biocides, Chemical Accidents, GLP, New Chemicals and Pesticides.
- Pablo Ruiz finished his internship for the Pesticides programme in August.
- Anne Gourmelon has officially taken up the position of head of the Test Guidelines programme.
- Ward Hermans joined EHS as an intern in the Biosafety Team in September.
- Julija Filipovska joined EHS in March as an Administrator for the (Q)SAR Project and Test Guidelines programme.
WEB SITES

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

| EHS Division, Environment Directorate, OECD, 2 rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, Tel: (33-1) 45 24 93 16, email: ehscont@oecd.org |
| You can find 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/chemicalsafety |
| Biocides  | http://www.oecd.org/env/biocides |
| Biosafety and Food/Feed safety  | http://www.oecd.org/biotrack |
| Chemical Accidents  | http://www.oecd.org/env/accidents |
| Exposure Assessment  | http://www.oecd.org/env/exposure |
| Good Laboratory Practice  | http://www.oecd.org/env/glp |
| Harmonised Templates  | http://www.oecd.org/ehs/templates |
| Harmonisation of Classification of Labelling  | http://www.oecd.org/env/classify |
| Hazard Assessment  | http://www.oecd.org/env/hazard |
| Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD)  | http://www.oecd.org/ehs/mad |
| New Chemicals  | http://www.oecd.org/env/newchemicals |
| Pesticides  | http://www.oecd.org/env/pesticides |
| Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers  | http://www.oecd.org/env/prtr |
| (Q)SARS  | http://www.oecd.org/env/hazard/qsar |
| Risk Assessment  | http://www.oecd.org/env/riskassessment |
| Safety of Manufactured Nanomaterials  | http://www.oecd.org/env/nanosafety |
| Sustainable Chemistry  | http://www.oecd.org/env/sustainablechemistry |
| Test Guidelines  | http://www.oecd.org/env/testguidelines |

Most EHS Publications can be downloaded directly from OLIS or our website:
www.oecd.org/ehs/publications

If you are unable to find what you are looking for, please contact the Secretariat:
→ Email: ehscont@oecd.org
→ Fax: +33 (0)1 44 30 61 80
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
<th>OFFICE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DIDERICH, Bob</td>
<td>Head of Division</td>
<td>14.85</td>
<td>0339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIZAWA, Hirofumi</td>
<td>Risk Assessment, Test Guidelines, PRTR</td>
<td>79.07</td>
<td>0346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYOYAGI, Asako</td>
<td>Nanotechnologies</td>
<td>14.63</td>
<td>0295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAJORVIC, Sanela</td>
<td>Assistant, Test Guidelines</td>
<td>16.74</td>
<td>0263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORKEY, Peter</td>
<td>Risk Management/Sustainable Chemistry</td>
<td>13.85</td>
<td>0240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAGALLIER, Bertrand</td>
<td>Food Safety/Biosafety, Templates</td>
<td>84.51</td>
<td>0283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE KNECHT, Joop</td>
<td>Hazard Assessment, (Q)SARS, Templates</td>
<td>82.57</td>
<td>0352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELRUE, Nathalie</td>
<td>Test Guidelines</td>
<td>98.44</td>
<td>0319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE MARCELLUS, Sally</td>
<td>Hazard Assessment</td>
<td>19.42</td>
<td>0346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EVELEIGH, Lisa</td>
<td>Administrative Officer</td>
<td>95.43</td>
<td>0340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILIPPOVSKA, Julija</td>
<td>QSARs, Test Guidelines</td>
<td>16.76</td>
<td>0319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRANCIS, Camilla</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>93.16</td>
<td>0320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRISON BEAU, Valerie</td>
<td>Hazard Assessment</td>
<td>89.34</td>
<td>0334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GILBEY, Milly</td>
<td>Communications, Publications</td>
<td>79.05</td>
<td>0320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GONZALEZ, Mar</td>
<td>Nanotechnologies, Outreach Programme</td>
<td>76.96</td>
<td>0295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOURMELON, Anne</td>
<td>Test Guidelines, Hazard Assessment</td>
<td>98.49</td>
<td>0319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HERMANS, Ward</td>
<td>Biosafety</td>
<td>16.48</td>
<td>0334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUET, Marie-Chantal</td>
<td>Pesticides, Test Guidelines</td>
<td>79.03</td>
<td>0283</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEARNS, Peter</td>
<td>Biosafety, Food Safety, Nanotechnologies, Chemical Accidents</td>
<td>16.77</td>
<td>0285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERCKEL, Dan</td>
<td>Hazard Assessment, Biocides</td>
<td>17.99</td>
<td>0332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAKANO, Kenji</td>
<td>GLP, Test Guidelines</td>
<td>76.98</td>
<td>0332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OLADINI-JAMES, Christiana</td>
<td>Assistant, Nanotechnologies, Biosafety, Food Safety</td>
<td>17.08</td>
<td>0263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PORET, Sylvie</td>
<td>Pesticides, Biocides</td>
<td>89.45</td>
<td>0238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAVARY, Lisa</td>
<td>Assistant, Hazard Assessment, (Q)SAR, PRTR, Templates and Risk Management</td>
<td>17.37</td>
<td>0263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGMAN, Richard</td>
<td>GLP/MAD, New Chemicals, Outreach Programme, Exposure Assessment, PRTRs</td>
<td>16.80</td>
<td>0255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SONG, Hoseok</td>
<td>Nanotechnologies</td>
<td>98.81</td>
<td>0289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUWABE, Kazuyuki</td>
<td>Biosafety, Food Safety</td>
<td>76.19</td>
<td>0289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRONCO VALENCIA, Carolina</td>
<td>Nanotechnologies, Chemical Accidents</td>
<td>19.11</td>
<td>0295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURNER, Ivy Brasil</td>
<td>Assistant, Pesticides, Biocides, GLP, New Chemicals and Chemical Accidents</td>
<td>85.25</td>
<td>0263</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Environment, Health and Safety News is issued approximately every eight months, between the meetings of the Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. It aims to provide an update on recent publications, as well as the main recent or upcoming events of the EHS Programme. This newsletter is mainly intended for participants in OECD activities associated with the EHS Programme. At the same time, the OECD secretariat hopes that it is also of value to a broader audience with an interest in human health and environmental safety issues connected with the use of chemicals, pesticides and biotechnology.

http://www.oecd.org/ehs