



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Main conclusions from the workshop

Presentations concerning hazard and risk assessment on Human Health

The derivation of a DNEL for the risk characterization to human health is still under debate resulting in uncertainties with respect to DNEL-derivation and with respect to exposure assessment. It appears that further discussion on the basis of the new data as mentioned by the German Authority and the US study is needed.

Presentations concerning hazard and risk assessment on Environment

Concerning the PBT criteria of PFOA, there was a large consensus on the Persistent criteria. On the bioaccumulative criteria, B, it looks that there is an increasing tendency to bioaccumulation over the years. As at this point we would not expect additional information, we would work on the information already available taking into account the forthcoming revision of Annex XIII of REACH.

On the toxicity criteria, namely T, we will follow the discussion presented by Norway in its Annex XV dossier for the classification as toxic for reproduction 1B. Particular attention will be given also the recent in vitro studies from Germany on toxicity in liver cells as presented during the workshop.

We heard furthermore different presentation on studies addressing the presence of PFOA in blood samples in humans and in arctic species, both with increasing tendency over the years. Another presentation on the detection of PFOA in surface-, ground- and drinking water showed increased values in some regions.

About the precursors or substances which degrade to PFOA, it appears that further discussion about their identification, their source and their contribution to exposure is needed. Impurities will also be considered.

Some of these figures will come from OECD and will be forwarded to the Commission.

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Industrial application and use in consumer products

PFOA is widely used as a processing aid in the fluoropolymer production, as well as in photographic applications. Industry presented the results of the voluntary programme to further reduce the emission of PFOA by 2015.

On consumer products a presentation called for more screening about the presence of PFOA in carpets, leather and textile and other sources. Although levels might seem low, the high amount of these products used could result in a considerable source of emission to the ecosystem, especially as waste.

Alternatives:

There is a need to follow also the activities at OECD level.

Method of analysis:

As it concerns Perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) analytical methods already exist but need to be improved. The European analytical standard method on PFOS cannot be fully applied.

Regulatory measures

There was a suggestion to define Environmental Quality Standards for soil and water including drinking water. Other suggestions came for possible regulatory steps to be taken under REACH, such as restrictions on PFOA and/ or including PFOA in the candidate list.

If PFOA is classified as toxic for reproduction 1B or if it is identified as fulfilling the PBT criteria then it would be eligible for inclusion in the candidate list. More discussion on the best risk management option on PFOA is therefore needed.