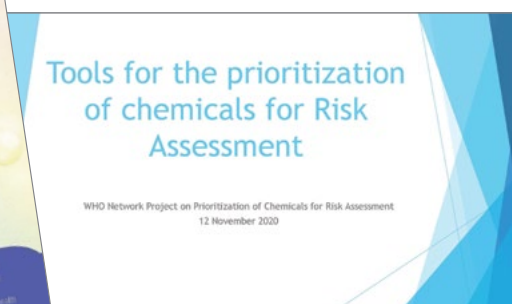
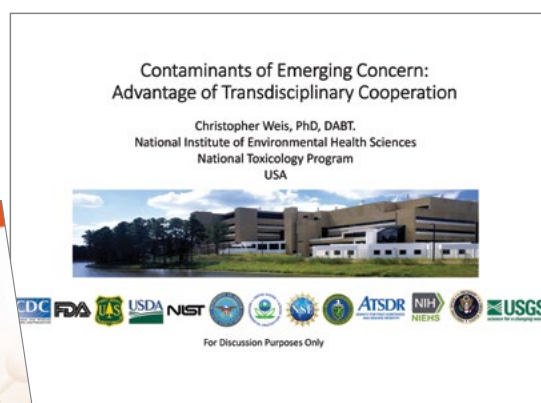


# WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network Newsletter

Newsletter No. 17: Winter 2021

## Network Webinar Series

The series of monthly webinars organized through the Network which commenced in Summer 2020 has continued. Over the period of October 2020 to January 2021 webinars have been held on “Rapid public health risk assessment to inform chemical incident response action”, “Prioritization of chemicals for risk assessment” and “Promoting transdisciplinary approaches for identifying and assessing chemical hazards and risks to protect public health”. The webinars continue to be well attended with up to 200 participants. Recordings and presentation slides from each webinar are available to Network focal points via the Network SharePoint site, and the webinar series is planned to continue through 2021.



**World Health Organization**

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health

## Latest Publications

### Guidelines for establishing a poison centre

The WHO “Guidelines for establishing a poison centre” provide information on the services that may be offered by a poison centre as well as detailed practical guidance on planning and operations. This publication is an update of the Guidelines for Poisons Control, published by WHO in 1997. The update addresses the renewed emphasis on poisons centres given the implementation of the International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005) as well as developments in technology and experience in poisons centre operations. <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1327248/retrieve>



### Risk assessment of chemicals in food

Environmental Health Criteria No. 240 “Principles and methods for the risk assessment of chemicals in food” was originally published by WHO in 2009 to provide a detailed monograph on the methods and principles for the risk assessment of chemicals in food. Since that time, selected parts of this publication have been updated to reflect advances in science and risk assessment practices. The following chapters and sub-chapters have recently been published:

- Section 4.5: Genotoxicity
- Chapter 5: Dose-response assessment and derivation of health-based guidance values
- Chapter 6: Dietary exposure assessment of chemicals in food
- Section 9.1.4.2: Enzymes

The complete publication including the recently updated chapters can be accessed at [http://www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc240\\_index.htm](http://www.inchem.org/documents/ehc/ehc/ehc240_index.htm).

### Drinking-water quality – chemical background documents

The WHO “Guidelines for drinking-water quality” provide an authoritative basis for the setting of national regulations and standards for water safety in support of public health. The guidelines include a broad range of chemicals that can affect drinking-water quality, and the background documents for these chemicals are periodically reviewed. Background documents for the following chemicals were recently revised or newly published: bentazone; chromium; iodine; microcystins; tetrachloroethene; trichloroethene; anatoxin-a and analogues; cylindrospermopsins; saxitoxins; organotin.

These chemical background documents can be accessed via: <https://www.who.int/teams/environment-climate-change-and-health/water-sanitation-and-health/chemical-hazards-in-drinking-water>.

### Guidance on organizing an advocacy or awareness-raising campaign on lead paint

This joint WHO/UNEP publication was developed as part of a project to accelerate progress towards the establishment of legally binding controls on the manufacture, sale, distribution, import and use of lead paint in countries. It is a contribution to the work of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint, which is working towards the global phase-out of paints containing lead in order to prevent children’s exposure and to minimize occupational exposure to lead from paint. The publication provides guidance and tools to support advocacy or awareness-raising activities to build momentum in a country toward the development, adoption and implementation of legally binding measures to address lead paint. It builds upon the experience of the annual International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week campaign and upon communication guidance developed by WHO, and is available in 6 languages.

<https://www.who.int/publications/item/9789240011496>



## Latest IARC Monographs

The IARC Monographs identify environmental factors that can increase the risk of cancer. The latest Monograph, Volume 125, evaluated the carcinogenicity of certain industrial chemical intermediates and solvents, based mainly on evidence of carcinogenicity in bioassays and mechanistic evidence. Glycidyl methacrylate was evaluated as “probably carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2A) and 1-Butyl glycidyl ether, 1-Bromo-3-chloropropane and 4-Chlorobenzotrifluoride were evaluated as “possibly carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2B). This IARC Working Group also confirmed the previous evaluation of allyl chloride as “not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans” (Group 3), though a small minority of the Working Group proposed classification in group 2B on the basis of sufficient evidence in bioassays.

IARC Monograph Volume 125 – Some industrial chemical intermediates and solvents [publications.iarc.fr/596](https://publications.iarc.fr/596)

All publications from the IARC Monographs Programme can be accessed at <http://monographs.iarc.fr>.