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Type of paper: For debate

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Exemptions:

WATCH COMMITTEE

New and Emerging Issues 2006

Improvements in Exposure Data Assessment

Issue

1. Can this topic, identified as one of the top three “new and emerging issues” by WATCH in October 2005, be usefully advanced? If so, how?

Background

2. In the inaugural session identifying and prioritising “new and emerging issues” held with WATCH and additional Community of Practice and Interest (COPI) invitees in October 2005, the topic of “improving exposure data assessments” was identified as a high priority. The relevant minutes of the October 2005 meeting are at Annex 1.

3. Subsequently HSE’s Occupational Hygiene Unit produced a short paper (WATCH/2006/4) setting out its perspective on HSE’s occupational hygiene needs and capabilities; a copy is attached here at Annex 2. There was a discussion around this paper at the June 2006 WATCH meeting and the relevant minutes are attached at Annex 3.

Argument and Action

4. Thus far, further consideration of this topic has raised some interesting points but has not produced a clear position on how the issue should be progressed and by whom. **In order to carry through on its “new and emerging issues” process, WATCH - expanded into the COPI – is now asked to reflect on whether or not this should still be regarded as a high priority matter; and, if so, how can progress best be made?** Note that it is not essential that WATCH, the “chemicals/health” COPI or HSE is identified as the most appropriate vehicle for advancing any “new and emerging” topic.

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References / Attachments

Annex 1 Relevant extract of minutes of WATCH meeting October 2005
Annex 2 WATCH/2006/4 Occupational Hygiene Intelligence within HSE
Annex 3 Relevant extract of minutes of WATCH meeting June 2006