

Meeting date:

22 February 2007

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## Secretary's Report for 9th Meeting, 22 February 2007

### A. Progress on minuted actions arising during the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 9&10<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Min. Ref.	Action	Status
7.21	HSE to amend the 4-option approach for deriving DMELs for genotoxic carcinogens, according to comments recorded in the minutes (WATCH/MIN/2006/3). (Not recorded as a specific action)	See below.
8.17	HSE to produce a concise paper proposing how the prioritised new & emerging topic 'exposure intelligence gathering' might best be further advanced, for consideration at the next WATCH meeting in February 2007.	WATCH/2007/3 presented at February 2007 meeting.
8.32	HSE to prepare a paper on the prioritised new & emerging topic 'nuisance dusts' for the February 2007 WATCH.	WATCH/2007/1 presented at February 2007 meeting.
8.34	HSE to produce a paper indicating the current level of knowledge within HSE on the prioritised new & emerging topic recycling.	See below, also, update to be provided at February 2007 meeting
8.35	HSE to draft a brief scoping paper on the prioritised new & emerging topic 'asbestos risk and low level exposure' for the February 2007 WATCH.	WATCH/2007/2 presented at February 2007 meeting.
8.36	HSE to put together for the February 2007 WATCH meeting appropriate documentation on the prioritised new and emerging issue 'occupational exposure standards, limits or guidance for respiratory exposure to metalworking fluids.	See below

#### 7.21 DMELs for Genotoxic Carcinogens

HSE has taken into account the suggestions made by WATCH on the methodology for deriving DMELs for genotoxic carcinogens and re-submitted relevant parts of its DMEL paper (reflecting the comments received) to the EU RIP 3.2 Expert Drafting Group on 'derivation of DNELs and risk characterisation of non-threshold effects' in time for its meeting in Ispra on 27-28 November 2006.

At the meeting the proposed changes were well received. It was agreed that these will be reflected in the next draft of the TGD. HSE is expected to provide specific text sections for inclusion in the next draft.

At the meeting there was protracted discussion on the approach for deriving DMELs when only animal carcinogenicity data are available. HSE argued against the linear extrapolation method, which involves risk predictions of unknown accuracy that can never be validated by empirical observations, and tried to emphasise the greater transparency of the large assessment factor method. In the end it was agreed that the Working Group was not the right forum for discussing merits and limitations of the two proposed approaches and that both methodologies should be included in the TGD.

### **8.34 Recycling, as a prioritized new and emerging issue**

The HSE Horizon Scanning Team report was sent to the relevant COPI member in November. Feedback has not yet been received. However, HSE's manufacturing sector, who have responsibility for recycling, have been gathering relevant information and an inspector from the sector will attend the February 2007 meeting to provide an outline of the information that is available to them.

### **8.36 Metalworking fluids, as a prioritized new and emerging issue**

It has not been possible in the time available to put together a complete package of information on this topic. However, the documents that summarise the investigation of the outbreak of respiratory disease at the Powertrain plant that were associated with exposure to water – mix metalworking and water – based wash fluids have been identified. These include :

- 1) Outbreak of respiratory disease at Powertrain Ltd, Longbridge, Birmingham  
Emerging lessons: Health and Safety Executive (04/06)
- 2) Collection of Material Safety Sheet of relevant constituents of metal working fluids & wash solutions
- 3) New HSE guidance, available at [www.hse.gov.uk/metalworking](http://www.hse.gov.uk/metalworking)
- 4) A detailed scientific report on the Powertrain investigation prepared by HSL – not yet finalised but awaiting final approval

In addition there is a comprehensive report prepared by U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety & Health Administration about hazards and risks associated with use of metal working fluids.

- 5) <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/98-102.html>

There have also been several large investigations of outbreaks of Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (extrinsic allergic alveolitis) related to use of MWF in the US e.g.,

- 6) Bracker A, Storey E, Yang C and Hodgson MJ: An Outbreak of Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis at a Metalworking Plant: A Longitudinal Assessment of Intervention Effectiveness: Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene: (2003)18: 96-108

Papers reviewing the value of metal fluid mist exposure limits will also be of interest e.g.

- 7) Cohen H and Eugene M. White: Metalworking Fluid Mist Occupational Exposure Limits: A Discussion of Alternative Methods Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (2006) 3: 501–50.
- 8) John A. Bukowski JA: Review of Respiratory Morbidity from Occupational Exposure to Oil Mists: Applied Occupational and Environmental Hygiene (2003) 18: 828–837

Rather than provide for WATCH what is available now, it was considered appropriate to wait until the full package has been pulled together. It is anticipated that this will be ready in time for the June 2007 meeting.

**B. Updates on other activities**

Nothing to report.