



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Lauren Zeise, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection
California Environmental Protection Agency

FROM: Lauren Zeise, Ph.D. *Lauren Zeise*
Lauren Zeise (Oct 2, 2023 15:55 PDT)
Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

DATE: October 2, 2023

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REFERENCE EXPOSURE LEVELS (RELS) FOR TRIMETHYLBENZENES

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has adopted Reference Exposure Levels (RELS) for Trimethylbenzenes (TMBs) for use in the Air Toxics Hot Spots (Hot Spots) program, effective October 6, 2023.

TMBs are used in surface coatings, paints, printing inks, cleaning fluids, and hydraulic fracturing fluids. They are common components in petroleum refinery distillation fractions, such as gasoline and white spirits, and can be emitted by coal-fired plants.

A draft document describing the scientific basis for the TMBs RELs was released on January 27, 2023 to solicit public comments. During the ensuing 45-day public comment period, two public workshops were held (Sacramento and Diamond Bar). No public comments were received. The State's Scientific Review Panel (SRP) on Toxic Air Contaminants peer-reviewed the document in June 2023. The document was revised in response to SRP comments and reviewed by the SRP chair before finalization.

The REL values for TMBs are as follows:

Acute REL (for infrequent 1-hour exposures): 2,400 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) ((490 parts per billion (ppb))
Chronic REL (for long-term exposures): 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1 ppb)
8-Hour REL (for repeated 8-hour exposures): 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (2 ppb)

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The TMBs REL values will be provided to the California Air Resources Board for incorporation into the Hotspots Analysis and Reporting Program (HARP) software suite. HARP software is used to generate Hot Spots facility health risk assessments.

The final document that describes the scientific basis for these RELs is attached and will be made available on the OEHHA Web site on October 6.

Attachments

cc: Scott Lichtig
Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy
California Environmental Protection Agency

Richard Boyd, Assistant Division Chief
Transportation and Toxics Division
California Air Resources Board

Matthew O'Donnell, Chief
Risk Reduction Branch
California Air Resources Board

Kannan Krishnan, Chief
Air and Site Assessment and Climate Indicators Branch
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment