

May 2, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

RE: Adoption of new OELs in 2005

The Workers' Compensation Board ("WCB") strives to reduce workers' exposure to hazardous chemicals in the workplace. This is accomplished by setting Occupational Exposure Limits ("OELs") for chemical substances that are used in British Columbia. An OEL is the maximum allowable airborne concentration of a chemical substance to which most workers can be exposed on a daily basis without experiencing adverse health effects.

Section 5.48 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation*, provides that, except as otherwise determined by the WCB, a worker's exposure to a hazardous chemical substance must not exceed the limits established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists ("ACGIH"). WCB policy provides a list of exceptions where it has been determined that a specific limit established by the ACGIH is not appropriate for adoption in British Columbia.

An OEL Review Committee ("Committee") has been established by the WCB to review the OELs to ensure they remain up-to-date. A copy of the Committee's Terms of Reference is posted on the WCB's website at www.worksafebc.com (search term: OEL Committee Terms of Reference).

For your information, please find attached a list of substances for which new OELs were adopted in 2005. The Committee welcomes, in the form of a written submission, your comments and/or concerns about the regulation of these substances, in addition to any other substance regulated by the WCB. A current list of the OELs can be found on the WCB's website (search term: Table of Exposure Limits). In preparing a submission to the Committee, please provide any available technical and scientific data to support the current or an alternative exposure limit. The following information should be included for the Committee's consideration:

- Industry and processes in which substance is used, generally and in B.C. specifically,
- Level of use – volume used; frequency of use,
- Number of workers exposed,
- Routes of exposure,
- How compliance with the current OEL is achieved (e.g., existing controls),
- Current workplace exposure levels,
- Duration of worker exposure – short-term vs. long term,
- Potential economic impact – cost of implementing new controls.

Submissions must be received by **June 10, 2005**

Your response may be sent by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Policy and Research Division
Workers' Compensation Board
P.O. Box 5350, Stn Terminal
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Fax: (604) 279-7599
Email: regquery@wcb.bc.ca

The Committee will consider all information provided by stakeholders when proposing to adopt a new OEL or maintain the current OEL for a given substance. The Board of Directors, as the decision-making body of the WCB, will make the final decision regarding all proposed changes to OELs.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Policy and Research Division at (604) 276-5160.

Yours truly,

Anne Burch
Director, Prevention Policy and Regulation Review

New OEL adoptions in 2005

Substance [CAS No.]	TWA	STEL	Notations
Acrylamide [79-06-1]	0.03 mg/m ³ (I,V)	-	Skin; 2A
Borate compounds, Inorganic [1330-43-4; 1303-96-4; 12179-04-3; 10043-35-3]	2 mg/m ³ (I)	6 mg/m ³ (I)	
Borates, tetra, sodium salts Anhydrous [1330-43-4] Decahydrate [1303-96-4] Pentahydrate [12179-04-3]	<i>Documentation and adopted TLVs withdrawn; see Borate compounds, Inorganic</i>		
1-Bromopropane [106-94-5]	10 ppm	-	-
n-Butyl glycidyl ether [BGE] [2426-08-6]	3 ppm	-	Skin; SEN
Dichloroacetic acid [79-43-6]	0.5 ppm	-	Skin; 2B
Ethylene [74-85-1]	200 ppm	-	
Fensulfothion [115-90-2]	0.01 mg/m ³ (I,V)	-	Skin
Gallium arsenide [1303-00-0]	0.0003 mg/m ³ (R)	-	1
Phorate [298-02-2]	0.05 mg/m ³ (I,V)	-	Skin
Silica, Crystalline – Tridymite [15468-32-3]	<i>Documentation and adopted TLVs withdrawn due to insufficient data</i>		
Sulfotepp [TEDP] [3689-24-5]	0.1 mg/m ³ (I,V)	-	Skin
Temephos [3383-96-8]	1 mg/m ³ (I,V)	-	Skin
Tetrahydrofuran [109-99-9]	50 ppm	100 ppm	Skin
Tetrakis (hydroxymethyl) phosphonium salts Tetrakis (hydroxymethyl) phosphonium sulfate [55566-30-8] Tetrakis (hydroxymethyl) phosphonium chloride [124-64-1]	2 mg/m ³ 2 mg/m ³	- -	SEN

- (I) Inhalable particulate mass
(R) Respirable particulate mass
(V) Vapour and aerosol

Please note: New TLVs for wood dust and hydrogen fluoride were adopted by the ACGIH in 2005. These new limits will not be adopted by the Board at this time because Policy #R5.48-1 currently provides exceptions for these substances.