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Activities of the OECD in the field of chemicals control with particular reference to the work on high production volume chemicals

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Summary. - The direct products that member countries and industry have gained so far from the cooperative work in the OECD SIDS (screening information data set) context include: the wider availability of many data from industry; the generation of many test data; the development of SIDS dossiers and SIDS testing plans on 162 high production volume (HPV) chemicals; the preparation of SIDS initial assessment reports (25 are ready, another 67 will be ready in July 1994); and the improved mutual understanding of methods for making initial hazard assessments.

Key words: chemicals programme, high production volume chemicals, testing, assessment, cooperative work.

Riassunto *(L'attività dell'OECD nel campo del controllo delle sostanze chimiche con particolare riguardo alle sostanze chimiche ad alto volume di produzione).* - I frutti immediati del lavoro di cooperazione fra i paesi membri dell'OECD e l'industria comprendono: la più ampia disponibilità di dati provenienti dall'industria; la generazione di dati sperimentali; lo sviluppo di dossier SIDS ("screening information data set") e di piani di esperimenti SIDS su 162 sostanze chimiche ad alto volume di produzione ("high production volume", HPV); la preparazione di rapporti di valutazione iniziale SIDS (di cui 25 già disponibili e altri 67 disponibili entro il mese di luglio del 1994); e il raggiungimento di accordi multilaterali sui metodi da adottare per la valutazione del rischio iniziale.

Parole chiave: progetto sostanze chimiche, sostanze chimiche ad alto volume di produzione, sperimentazione, valutazione, attività di cooperazione.

Introduction

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization with 24 member countries. These are the industrialised nations of Western Europe and North America, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The Commission of the European Union also takes part in the work of the organization. The OECD provides a forum where its member countries discuss issues of common interest, share their experiences, and informally or formally coordinate and harmonize their national policies.

When it was first established in 1960, the OECD focused, as its name suggests, on traditional economic and financial matters. Within a few years, OECD member countries recognized that to ensure high-quality economic growth, there is a need to maintain and improve the quality of the environment. Therefore, the environment programme was established to foster cooperation in this area and to deal with specific environmental issues of concern to member countries.

The OECD chemicals programme is part of the OECD Environmental Health and Safety Programme. Products of the chemicals programme include the OECD Council decision on mutual acceptance of data, the OECD test guidelines, the OECD principles of good laboratory practice (GLP), and the minimum pre-marketing set of data for new chemicals. A policy concerning the assessment of the health and environmental concerns of newly marketed chemicals was developed in the early 1980's. Presently, the health and environmental safety aspects of existing chemicals and the prevention and reduction of chemical risks are being addressed. Other work in the environmental health and safety area addresses chemical accidents, pesticides, and environmental aspects of biotechnology.

The objectives of the work on chemicals in OECD are to:

- assist member countries in identifying, preventing and reducing the risks of chemicals;
- promote sustainable development concerning activities relating to chemicals within OECD and in co-operation with non-member countries;

(*) The opinions expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the OECD or of the governments of the member countries.

- prevent unnecessary distortions in trade and facilitate optimal use of national resources available for chemicals management; and
- assist member countries working towards an integrated chemicals management approach which incorporates economic and environmental policy considerations [1].

The 1994-1996 chemicals programme

The programme of work for 1994-1996 entails further integration of policies for risk identification, prevention and reduction, for all types of chemicals and technologies, while emphasizing the links between economic and environmental considerations and strengthening international cooperation. This integration is needed to address the critical issues and challenges of the 1990's. Of particular importance is the implementation of UNCED's agenda 21 (chapter 19: "Environmentally sound management of toxic chemicals").

Specifically, OECD chemicals programme activities involve:

Testing and assessment of chemicals
- Test guidelines
- Good laboratory practice
- Mutual acceptance of data
- Hazard assessment
- Harmonization of classification and labelling systems

Cooperation on existing chemicals
- High production volume (HPV) chemicals
- Cooperation on selected chemicals or activities
- Exichem

Prevention and reduction of chemical risks
- Risk prevention
- Risk reduction of selected chemicals
- Integration of economic and chemicals control decision-making
- Information exchange mechanisms

Following is a short overview of these activities.

Testing and assessment of chemicals

Test guidelines. - The systematic review of all OECD test guidelines will continue, and updates will be prepared as necessary. New test guidelines are being developed in order to address needs identified by member countries, giving special attention to improving animal welfare.

Good laboratory practice. - Work supports the full implementation by member countries of the OECD Council decisions related to GLP. Priority will be given to the harmonization and mutual acceptance of the compliance monitoring of laboratories. This involves the continuation of inspector training courses and the development of additional guidance for monitoring procedures. Coordination with, and direct assistance to, non-member countries is increasing [2, 3].

Mutual acceptance of data. - The 1981 Council decision on the mutual acceptance of data (MAD) is one of the most significant achievements of the chemicals programme. Vigorous promotion of the application of the MAD principle continues with the investigation of non-compliance notifications provided by industry. Implementation assistance is also extended to non-member countries, in the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Hazard assessment. - Hazard assessment work focusses primarily on the development of mutually acceptable methods for assessment of environmental effects and exposures. This work has been extended to include the newly evolving life-cycle risk assessment methods, in close cooperation with OECD pollution prevention and control group.

Harmonization of classification and labelling systems. - Work is underway to resolve specific problems concerning the harmonization of classification systems. Emphasis is being placed on the criteria underpinning the classification of human health and environmental hazards. OECD, in conjunction with IPCS, is concentrating on the implementation of the UNCED call for action in this area.

Cooperation on existing chemicals

Existing chemicals activities centre on HPV chemicals. The aim is to collect the basic data already available for these chemicals, or to cooperatively generate such data, so that initial hazard assessments can be made. Through this cooperative work, economic and administrative burdens are being shared among member countries as well as in the chemical industry. Close cooperation with industry, which participates on a voluntary basis, is the foundation of this work.

High production volume chemicals. - Work on HPV chemicals will be described in detail below.

Cooperation on selected chemicals or activities. - The OECD Secretariat assists member countries in identifying opportunities for cooperative collection, generation or assessment of data on chemicals of mutual interest.

Exichem - Information on "who is doing what on which chemicals" increases the possibilities for member countries to find partners with whom to collaborate, thereby avoiding the duplication of work. This computerised support system is updated annually.

Prevention and reduction of chemical risks

This work is aimed at minimising risks from specific chemicals or groups of chemicals in order to protect health and the environment. Activities assist member countries in formulating national risk reduction and precautionary policies. International policies can also be developed if member countries consider this to be useful.

Risk prevention. - Activities in this area concentrate on sharing information on various instruments for risk reduction and their application. Work is carried out in close cooperation with the OECD pollution prevention and control group. Practical experience will be applied in addressing risks of chemicals which have similar structures, uses or hazardous properties while pursuing opportunities to promote the design and development of safer chemicals and the application of safer alternatives, either substitute chemicals or cleaner technologies.

Risk reduction of selected chemicals. - The experience already gained is applied to additional specific (or specific groups of) chemicals in order to identify risk reduction opportunities, promote risk reduction actions and activities, and elaborate the use of voluntary agreements between industry and member countries. Possibilities for a wider application of life-cycle management concepts are also being reviewed.

Integration of economic and chemicals control decision-making. - This work centres on identifying methods for reducing the costs of chemical control to government and industry.

Information exchange mechanisms. - The complementary information exchange procedure and other mechanisms are widely used. Reviews of member countries' implementation of OECD Council decisions and recommendations are initiated as appropriate.

International coordination and outreach

An important goal of the 1994-1996 chemicals programme is to increase the usefulness of its work and results in non-OECD countries, and to streamline co-operation with other international organizations. Close relationships exist with the Commission of European Communities, UN bodies (such as ECE, FAO, ILO, IMO, IPCS, UNEP - in particular IRPTC - and WHO) and other international organizations. Outreach efforts aim to assist and support non-member countries [4, 5].

Special attention is being given to UNCED's agenda 21, chapter 19, by making contributions to the strengthening of national capabilities and capacities for the management of chemicals through extending expertise and support of the OECD chemicals programme to the world community.

OECD work on investigation of high production volume chemicals

Background and rationale

The investigation of the safety of the nearly 100,000 chemicals currently in commerce is a daunting global challenge that can only be met if approached in a systematic way. This enormous task has been undertaken by the OECD, and is based on compilation, review and assessment of safety data and information on selected existing chemicals.

Many existing chemicals are international commodities. Various national governments and chemical companies have independently initiated activities to evaluate their safety, often using the guidance developed by OECD. Such activities, however, are time and resource intensive and have evidently led to the duplication of efforts on (groups of) chemicals. In order to tackle this problem, OECD member countries decided in 1987 to undertake systematic investigation of existing chemicals. They agreed to establish or strengthen national programmes to investigate existing chemicals in order to identify those which pose risks that need to be managed and/or controlled. OECD member countries work together and "share the burden" of investigating the potential risks from priority chemicals of mutual concern. By sharing the burden in this manner and by working towards internationally agreed objectives, governments avoid wasting resources through duplicative efforts. Industry can also benefit by avoiding duplication of information gathering or testing to fulfil various national and regional requirements and international commitments.

In order to share the burden of investigation, each member country carries out a specific part of the total work and makes information it has collected or generated available to other member countries. Chemical industries in member countries have agreed to play a significant role in the conduct of this cooperative work. The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to OECD (BIAC) and the National Chemical Industry Associations promote the collection of information and help ensure that tests which need to be conducted are undertaken in a timely manner. The work is carried out in collaboration with the Commission of the European Union (CEU), the United Nations International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS) and the International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals (IRPTC) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

This cooperative OECD work will lead to considerable benefits for many parties:

- environmental protection and human health are improved as existing chemicals are investigated more effectively;
- the financial costs involved in testing will be substantially reduced as a result of increased cooperation and sharing the burden in testing;

- the mutual understanding of national procedures for initial assessment of chemicals will be increased, and possibly these procedures can be harmonized;
- the use of animals in testing will be reduced, as much duplicative testing will be avoided.

Objectives

Since 1988, the main focus of this OECD work has been on HPV existing chemicals. It was assumed that production volume could be an indicator of potential occupational, consumer and environmental exposure.

The first objective of this cooperative work is to ensure that the basic information necessary to undertake a first evaluation of potential hazards associated with HPV chemicals is either available or generated.

A second objective is to undertake an initial assessment of this information and to categorise the chemicals according to the need for further work. Thus chemicals would be designated as being of low current priority for further work in the SIDS context (see below); requiring further work to clarify specific issues; or as candidates for an in-depth risk assessment. For some chemicals, their (eco)toxicological profiles may be such that they warrant being placed in a category of "avoid exposure" even though the priority for further work may be low.

Finally, when complete data and risk assessments are available, member countries may decide to develop common, consistent or harmonized risk reduction actions for those HPV chemicals about which there are found to be health and environmental concerns.

The OECD representative list of high production volume chemicals

The first OECD representative list of HPV chemicals was compiled on the basis of submissions by member countries to the OECD Secretariat in 1990. Submissions contained industrial chemicals for which a Chemical Abstracts Service registry number (CAS number) had been assigned. Eighteen member countries (including all major producing countries) provided national inventories of HPV chemicals produced in, or imported into, their countries. These inventories were merged into the OECD representative list, which includes all chemicals reported in any one member country to be produced or imported in excess of 10,000 tonnes per year, and all chemicals in two or more countries reported in excess of 1,000 tonnes per year. The 1990 version of the OECD representative list contains 1,592 entries.

Revision of this list is now underway, in order to update the data provided by national and regional programmes for the systematic investigation of existing chemicals. In this context, the updated OECD HPV list will be made in 1994 by combining the European Communities' HPV list (i.e. annex I to the EC regulation 793/93) and the updated national HPV submissions from non-EC OECD member countries. Any chemical on the updated OECD HPV list would then be available for choice by sponsor countries for their share of the cooperative OECD work on HPV chemicals. This means that member countries will be able to select either chemicals for which limited data are available, and for which development of SIDS data is needed, or priority chemicals for which SIDS data is available and for which an initial assessment can be carried out. In this way the work undertaken in EC member states in compliance with the EC regulation will form their contribution to the OECD work on existing chemicals.

Priority setting

At the beginning of the OECD work in this area, a survey of chemicals on the representative list was undertaken to gather readily available information on these HPV chemicals from member countries. The list was then reviewed by experts from member countries in order to determine the availability of further safety data for each chemical. It was decided that those substances for which little or no information was available should have highest priority for further work in the first several phases of the SIDS work. As a result of these deliberations, a "working list" of 648 chemicals was developed in 1992. The list is available from the OECD Secretariat.

Selection of chemicals

In order to share the burden, chemicals from the working list, in batches of approximately 50 for every "phase", are selected by member countries. Then member countries, in consultation with their chemical industries, identify chemicals for which, on a voluntary basis, they will act as a sponsor country in the HPV context. The overall number of chemicals which any member country sponsors should, as a minimum, be proportional to its financial contribution to the OECD chemicals programme, which in turn is proportional to its gross national product. Member countries have agreed that for the initial phases of this work, they would not choose to sponsor those chemicals for which a predicted minimal exposure would lead to possible exemptions from SIDS testing.

As discussed above, in the phase of the HPV chemicals project which began in 1993, any chemical in the updated OECD HPV list can be chosen for SIDS testing and/or assessment. This will give member countries greater flexibility and will facilitate the participation of industry in the work.

The screening information data set (SIDS)

The objective of the OECD work on existing chemicals is to undertake an initial screening of the potential risks to man and/or the environment of HPV chemicals. A

prerequisite for this generic approach was the identification of the necessary elements, or data set, on which to base an informed judgement as to the potential hazards of the chemicals. The data elements needed for "screening" HPV chemicals were brought together as the screening information data set, or SIDS, which comprises characterisation and effects data similar to the minimum pre-marketing set of data (MPD) for new chemicals, as well as elements of exposure information. The SIDS is the minimum information needed to categorise an HPV chemical to determine whether any further work, including in-depth risk assessment, should be carried out or not. It has been agreed that some data in SIDS are not required for chemicals with limited exposure, such as intermediates. In addition, several items which are specifically required for the assessment of inorganic chemicals have been developed.

The following data elements on characterisation, exposure and effects are basically required for preparing the SIDS dossier. The items marked with an asterisk *(*)* show the data specifically required for inorganic chemicals. Oxidation-reduction potential should also be required for organic chemicals when deemed necessary.

1) General information
Substance information
CAS number
Name (OECD name)
CAS descriptor *(*)*
Structural formula
Quantity (production ranges expressed as tonnes per annum)
Use pattern (categories and types of use)
Sources of exposure (exposure information)

2) Physical-chemical data
Melting point
Boiling point
Relative density *(*)*
Vapour pressure
Partition coefficient: n-octanol/water
Water solubility
Dissociation constant
Oxidation-reduction potential *(*)*

3) Environmental fate and pathways
Photodegradation (by estimation)
Stability in water (by estimation)
Monitoring data (environment)
Transport and distribution between environmental compartments including estimated environmental concentrations and distribution pathways by estimation, including Henry's Law constant as calculated from data under heading 2, aerosolisation, volatilisation, soil adsorption and desorption calculated using structure activity relationships (SARs)
Aerobic biodegrability

4) Ecotoxicity
Acute toxicity to fish
Acute toxicity to daphnia (if there is concern for possible long-term effects, prolonged/chronic toxicity testing should be considered in addition to acute tests)
Toxicity to algae
If significant exposure is expected in the terrestrial environmental compartment, efforts should be made to perform appropriate terrestrial toxicity tests. In addition, when aquatic toxicity testing is not possible (e.g. insolubility of the test chemicals), efforts should also be made to perform terrestrial toxicity tests.

5) Toxicological data
Acute toxicity
Repeated dose toxicity
Genetic toxicity (two end points, generally point mutation and chromosomal aberrations)
Reproductive toxicity (including fertility and developmental toxicity)
Experience with human exposure (if available).

A number of additional exposure elements have been identified which will improve the quality of the initial exposure assessment of HPV chemicals. It has been agreed that these elements are part of SIDS. They include information which is essential to allow effective application of even simple models and methods. It is the intention that *readily available* information be provided, e.g. indication of use categories and order of magnitude of number of workers involved. It is not expected that detailed reports be provided; whenever estimates are given some background and rationale would be useful, however. More detailed exposure analyses could be part of any post SIDS work, as needed.

Data collection, SIDS dossiers and SIDS testing plans

After selection of the chemicals by sponsor countries, the first activity involves collection of information on chemicals. In addition to readily available data, industry is also requested to provide data which are in their files and have so far not been published in the open literature.

To assist sponsor countries in the collection of data in a standardized manner, the OECD in cooperation with the CEU has developed a computer format, which can be used by responders when providing information. Not only all information required by the SIDS, but also further information on existing chemicals required within the framework of the EC programme, can be accommodated in the system. Diskettes on which the

data elements for the Harmonized Electronic Data Set (Hedset) may be entered, together with explanatory documents on recording information, are available from the OECD secretariat and national SIDS contact points or the CEU.

As additional information beyond SIDS elements could be helpful to the sponsor country in formulating its plan for SIDS testing, Hedset includes a wider range of data elements than those required in the SIDS. Information holders are therefore encouraged to provide information for as many of the data elements on the diskette as possible.

Although the use of the Hedset diskette is strongly encouraged, either the paper form, "Revised OECD HPV form 1", or its diskette equivalent in WordPerfect 5.1, both of which are available from the OECD Secretariat, are acceptable alternatives.

When no information is available for a given data element, calculation or estimates derived from quantitative structure activity relationships (QSARs) can be provided (e.g. for physical-chemical properties or acute aquatic toxicity). In this case an indication of the quality of the methods used should be given.

For any SIDS element on effects or characterisation for which no data are available or the data are not considered adequate, testing will in principle be carried out.

Any testing to complete the SIDS should be conducted according to the OECD test guidelines and the principles of good laboratory practice (GLP), in order to ensure that generated data are mutually acceptable among member countries and that tests carried out in accordance with the OECD Council decision on the mutual acceptance of data [C(81)30(final)] need not be repeated. It should be noted that two draft test guidelines, namely the "Combined repeated dose and reproductive developmental toxicity screening test" and the "Preliminary reproduction toxicity screening test", developed specifically for SIDS chemicals, can be used in this context.

The quality of the collected data is of great importance. In order to harmonize its evaluation and to assist sponsor countries in preparing the SIDS dossiers and SIDS testing plans for their chosen chemicals, OECD has prepared guidance for evaluating and documenting the quality of data. In addition, a SIDS guide which addresses details for each SIDS element is available from the OECD secretariat and a model dossier has also been prepared to indicate what kind of data should be included, how the data should be expressed, etc.

SIDS review

The SIDS dossiers and the SIDS testing plans are forwarded by the sponsor country to all national SIDS contact points, so that each country can study the proposals made by the sponsor country. The SIDS dossiers and SIDS testing plans are then scrutinized at a meeting of experts of member countries (SIDS review meeting) in order to confirm the adequacy of information and reach agreement on the SIDS testing plan.

Participation at the SIDS review meeting includes:

- representatives of the sponsor countries;
- observers from other member countries;
- observers from CEU, IPCS and IRPTC;
- observers from BIAC;
- observers from companies which produce the chemical (for that part of the discussions which concerns their chemical).

When a SIDS testing plan for a chemical is agreed at the SIDS review meeting, the sponsor country will carry out the test and/or the collection of information on exposure and effects. When there is already enough information on a chemical and it is considered that there is no need for testing, the sponsor country will begin to prepare the SIDS initial assessment report. If the testing plan is not agreed in the SIDS review meeting, it should be reconsidered by the sponsor country. In the case that the chemical is found not to be suitable for testing because of its physical-chemical properties, such as high reactivity, the selection of the chemical itself might be reconsidered.

The Steering group on existing chemicals, a subsidiary body to the Joint meeting of the chemicals group and management committee of the special programme on the control of chemicals, confirms agreements reached at the SIDS review meetings. In the future, SIDS reviews will, to a large extent, be done through a written procedure; those chemicals identified as requiring discussion would be dealt with by the Steering group.

Initial assessment of full SIDS chemicals

When the sponsor country has obtained all the data elements of the SIDS for the sponsored chemical (a full SIDS chemical), it will prepare the SIDS initial assessment report with a full SIDS dossier and make an evaluation by placing the chemical into one of four categories as follows:

- the chemical is of low current priority for further work in the SIDS context;
- the chemical warrants special attention due to specific properties or efforts;
- more work is required, for example further testing or analysis of exposure information to assess identified concerns (post SIDS work);
- or the chemical is of such concern that it should be a candidate for a more in-depth risk assessment and, if necessary, subsequent risk reduction activities.

These evaluations and recommendations included in a SIDS initial assessment report will be circulated in a similar manner to the SIDS dossiers. Five provisional guidance documents for sponsor countries to use in

doing initial assessment and preparing these recommendations have been developed and reviewed by member countries, taking into account experience obtained by the first SIDS initial assessment meeting (SIAM) in February 1993. They are:

- provisional guidance for the outline of the SIDS initial assessment report;
- provisional guidance for the initial assessment of environmental exposure;
- provisional guidance for the initial assessment of occupational and consumer exposure;
- provisional guidance for the initial assessment of aquatic effects;
- provisional guidance for the initial assessment of health effects.

Models used for exposure estimation have been developed based on the results of various OECD workshops and have been distributed to the national SIDS contact points.

The SIDS initial assessment reports including the recommendation for categorisation are discussed in a SIAM, participants in which are similar to those in a SIDS review meeting. The Steering group confirms agreements on the recommendations and evaluations made by the SIAM.

Outcome

For each chemical, the end product of the work in the framework of the existing chemicals programme should be that all data elements of the SIDS (full SIDS) and an initial assessment report are available. The information will have been evaluated and conclusions and proposals for further actions, if any, agreed among member countries.

The data collected in Hedset, and summaries of test reports which are provided to support these data, will be publicly available. Full reports supporting the data, when no claims for confidentiality are made by the owner, will also be publicly available, as well as the data from tests and information on exposure submitted in the SIDS context.

The OECD secretariat will transfer all non-confidential information received from the data collection, the SIDS testing and the results of initial assessment to IRPTC for inclusion in their database. The results of initial assessments will be published by IPCS. In this way, all information will be available worldwide. In cases where enough information is available to prepare a comprehensive review of a chemical, this will be done in cooperation with IPCS, which will prepare a health and safety guide or an environmental health criteria document.

Post SIDS activities

Once a chemical has all SIDS elements completed (full SIDS chemical) and has been reviewed and categorised at the SIAM as requiring further information to assess identified concerns, any follow-up work is regarded as post SIDS work. The SIAM will give an indication of what data need to be collected, generated and/or analyzed and the priority relative to other chemicals for which post SIDS work is envisaged.

Although a member country will monitor progress and oversee development of the work, the overall responsibility for initiating and undertaking any work will rest with industry. Industry has the widest knowledge about its chemicals, and is in the best position to negotiate ways and means of sharing the burden of the administrative and operational costs involved.

The member country, in collaboration with industry, will supervise the work in order to promote the establishment by producer and user industries of "consortia" for undertaking the work, to monitor that any necessary testing is conducted appropriately under the suggested schedule, and to circulate the final report of the work to national SIDS contact points in sponsor countries.

Non-member countries are encouraged to participate in the post SIDS work and share the burden.

When all the additional information on the full SIDS chemical has been collected or generated and analyzed, the chemical will be discussed at a post SIDS assessment meeting, which will have a similar format and participation as that adopted at the SIAM. The results, including all the reports generated in post SIDS work, will be provided to IRPTC and IPCS and be publicly available.

Although chemicals categorised as candidates for in-depth risk assessment, or to which exposure should be avoided, do not need further work in the SIDS context, they are considered to have high priority for risk assessment and/or risk reduction activities. The categorisation of such chemicals at the SIAM would be confirmed by the Steering group and the modalities of further activities would be discussed at the Joint meeting.

Cooperation with other international organizations

In the SIDS programme, it has been demonstrated that member countries can successfully cooperate in gathering data, testing and carrying out an assessment of existing chemicals. It should be noted that in January 1991, after consideration by the Environmental Ministers of the results from the first phase of this work, member countries made a formal commitment, in the form of an OECD Council act [Council act on cooperative investigation and risk reduction of existing chemicals [C(90)163(final)], that they would cooperate in the systematic investigation and assessment of existing chemicals. In this Council act, particular attention is paid to cooperation with other international organizations.

In the Council act, it was decided that member countries shall make information obtained from the cooperative investigation of existing chemicals publicly available via IRPTC, respecting legitimate claims for protection of confidential data. IRPTC has agreed that it will not only

work as an archive for the data collected or generated in the SIDS project, but also disseminate data through its databases. Therefore all information, including test reports, SIDS dossiers and SIDS initial assessment reports, will be transmitted to IRPTC and the information in them will be inputted to the IRPTC database.

IPCS was invited, through the Council act, to use the results of the investigations of existing chemicals by OECD member countries in preparing its assessments of the health and environmental impacts of existing chemicals. Information collected will be used for preparation of environmental health criteria documents and/or environmental health guides by the IPCS. Responding to the request made by UNCED in agenda 21 to expand and accelerate the international assessment of chemical risks, IPCS is now considering how to issue a new series of documents on initial assessment of HPV chemicals which will be prepared based on the information obtained through IRPTC from the OECD and EC existing chemicals programmes.

In addition to current cooperative activities, such as development of Hedset, implementation of the 1993 EC regulation on existing chemicals presents an excellent opportunity to expand the extent of cooperation between OECD and CEU. To this end, some aspects of the current SIDS process of OECD have been readjusted, in particular, the choice of chemicals for cooperative work based on an update of the OECD HPV list as mentioned above.

Results obtained so far

Work begun with a first phase of 53 chemicals in 1990. Later, other phases were initiated. The first SIDS initial assessment meeting (SIAM1), as mentioned above, was held in September 1993. A second meeting, SIAM2, will be held in July 1994. Tables 1 through 8 give an overview of results achieved so far and the current status of the work.

Table 1. - Phase 1 - 53 chemicals

25	Chemicals to IRPTC of which - 3 special attention - 6 further work - 16 no priority
15	Chemicals to SIAM2
8	Chemicals with testing delayed
5	Chemicals withdrawn

Table 2. - Tests done in phase 1

Physical-chemical properties	27
Environmental properties	32
Ecotoxicity	56
Toxicity	71
- repeated dose	7
- reprotox screen	4
- combined test	16
- teratogenicity	3

Table 3. - Phase 2 - 55 chemicals

23	Chemicals with testing plans agreed
26	Chemicals for SIAM2
1	Chemicals with testing plans under discussion
5	Chemicals withdrawn

Table 4. - Phase 3 - 66 chemicals

24	Chemicals with testing plans agreed
26	Chemicals for SIAM2
14	Chemicals with testing plans under discussion
2	Chemicals withdrawn

Table 5. - SIAM2 - June 1994

Phase 1	15 chemicals
Phase 2	26 chemicals
Phase 3	26 chemicals
Total	67 chemicals

Table 6. - Testing ongoing

Phase 1	8 chemicals
Phase 2	23 chemicals
Phase 3	24 chemicals
Total	55 chemicals

Table 7. - Chemicals in SIDS per phase (total = 213)

Phase 1	33
Phase 2	55
Phase 3	66
Phase 4	47
Withdrawn	12

Table 8. - Status of chemicals in SIDS (total = 209)

25	IRPTC
55	Testing ongoing
67	SIAM2
15	Testing plans under discussions
47	Phase 4

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