

OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE LIMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

The role of the Occupational Exposure Limit Review Committee (“Committee”) is to provide an ongoing review of occupational exposure limits provided for in policy and proposed new Threshold Limit Values (“TLVs”) as identified by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (“ACGIH”).

2. STRUCTURE

The Committee shall be a standing committee of the Policy and Research Division (“PRD”) and shall be chaired by the Vice-President or his/her designate (“Chair”).

The Committee shall be comprised of up to 8 members, including the Chair. The PRD appoints the Committee members on an annual basis. Meetings of the Committee shall be at the call of the Chair.

Minutes shall be kept of all meetings of the Committee and, after being signed by the Chair, shall be retained by the PRD.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee shall provide advice on the need for new or modified exposure limits. Specifically the Committee shall:

- Review, on an annual basis, proposed new TLVs as identified by the ACGIH to determine whether they are appropriate for adoption in BC.
- Review those occupational exposure limits that have been adopted through WCB policy as exceptions to the ACGIH TLVs to determine whether they continue to be appropriate or whether they should be removed or amended.
- As required due to the risk to worker health and safety, develop an occupational exposure limit where a hazardous chemical substance is not currently regulated (i.e., there is no ACGIH TLV or exposure limit in policy).
- For excluded substances provided for in policy, ensure corresponding designations, provided for in section 5.57 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation* (“OHSR”), are current.

When developing recommendations on new TLVs or excluded exposure limits provided for in policy, the Committee shall consider the following factors:

- current scientific knowledge regarding the health effects of exposure;
- ability of the WCB to enforce the TLV or exposure limit;
- ability of affected industries to achieve the TLV or exposure limit; and,
- the working population who may be at risk.

Where considered appropriate and necessary, the Committee may refer a chemical substance under consideration to an external expert or experts for an independent review of the health effects information and/or the economic implications associated with implementation.

For each chemical substance under review, the Committee shall, whenever possible, collect and consider the following information:

- physical properties of the substance;
- where the substance is used (i.e., type of industry);
- an estimate of how many workers in the province are exposed to the substance;
- exposure limits referenced in other relevant jurisdictions and academic agencies;
- reported human health effects;
- measurement techniques and practicality,
- any other relevant information.

As a guiding principle, recommendations made by the Committee to the BOD shall be based on sound scientific and medical knowledge.

4. PRIORITY RANKING

Proposed new ACGIH TLVs and the occupational exposure limits provided for in policy shall be reviewed according to their merit. In order to establish priority in a given year, the Committee shall consider the following factors:

- prevalence of exposure (including level of use, number of workers exposed, and existing controls);
- severity of potential adverse health effects;
- availability of new health information;
- substances identified by the WCB and/or stakeholders as being problematic;
- substances with lower exposure limits referenced in other relevant jurisdictions.

5. CONSULTATION

The Committee may consult with stakeholders in the community, experts in the field of occupational hygiene, and any other persons whom the Committee considers could assist in carrying out its mandate.

The proposed recommendations of the Committee shall be subject to a consultation process prior to being presented to the BOD for decision.

The PRD shall report to the BOD on the results of the consultation. The Committee shall review and consider the results of the stakeholder consultation prior to finalizing its recommendations for consideration by the BOD.

If a decision is made by the BOD to make an exception for a substance of concern, a public hearing shall be facilitated to determine whether the exception should be maintained.

6. ACCOUNTABILITY

The Chair of the Committee will:

- provide an annual report to the BOD of the activities and accomplishments of the Committee over the previous year, and,
- provide periodic reports to the BOD regarding updates on the Committee's plans and activities, as required.