

October 14, 2008

Dear Dr. _____:

Thank you for agreeing to participate as an external peer reviewer of the *NIOSH* Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium. This document has been determined by NIOSH to be a Significant Guidance document in accordance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines under the Federal Data Quality Act 2000 (Public Law 106-554, Section 1(a)(3)[515]). The overall goal of the peer review is to enhance the quality and credibility of Agency recommendations by ensuring that the scientific and technical work underlying these recommendations receives appropriate review by independent scientific and technical experts. The peer review charge was developed in accordance with OMB guidelines, is consistent with NIOSH peer review practice, and is meant to ensure that credible and appropriate science is used in the development of its recommendations for occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. The Word version of the document is attached and a PDF version is posted on the NIOSH website at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/144/>.

The goals of this document are to describe the: (1) critical animal, human, and in vitro studies on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (2) relevant quantitative risk assessments about occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (3) appropriate methods for sampling and analysis of hexavalent chromium compounds in the workplace; (4) basis for the NIOSH revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds; and (5) other NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. The charge to the Peer Reviewers is to objectively review the document to determine whether:

- the hazard identification is a reasonable reflection of the available scientific studies,
- the NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium are appropriate, and
- NIOSH has a transparent and sound basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds.

During your review, please address the technical content only as the document will be edited after external review comments have been considered and incorporated into the document.

To facilitate review of this document, the questions below should be considered:

1. Are the critical studies presented clearly and adequately?
2. Do all of the presented studies use scientifically valid methods and techniques?
3. Are there additional critical studies relevant to occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds that should be included?
4. Does NIOSH have a transparent and sound basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds?
5. Is the new NIOSH policy of providing general exposure assessment recommendations instead of a specific Action Level scientifically justified?
6. Are the NIOSH recommendations for worker protection clear and justified?
7. Are there additional recommendations for worker protection that should be included?

As a reminder and mentioned in my previous communication, the public review period will occur until Friday, January 31, 2009 – see attached Federal Register Notice. A public meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the NIOSH Robert A. Taft Laboratory Auditorium in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a forum for scientists and representatives of government agencies, industry, labor and other stakeholders to discuss the document. The meeting will be open to the public. You are invited to attend this meeting with expenses being paid by NIOSH. You will be contacted by a NIOSH staff member (Norma Helton, phone: (513) 533-8108 email: NHelton@cdc.gov) who will make the arrangements. Immediately following the public meeting copies of the public comments will be made available to you on CD for consideration in your comments which will be due to the NIOSH Docket Office on Friday,

February 27, 2009. Please send your written comments, preferably in Word format, to the NIOSH Docket Officer at nioshdocket@cdc.gov, or NIOSH Docket Office, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, OH 45226. Within the subject line of your return email or written comments, please reference **NIOSH Docket Number 144**. If you have any questions concerning this document, feel free to contact the NIOSH Docket Officer at (513) 533-8611 or fax number (513) 533-8230.

In order to comply with the new CDC/NIOSH data quality requirements for the review of NIOSH publications, a Conflict of Interest form is attached for your review and signature. In addition, current curriculum vitae (CV) will be needed. Both can be delivered by fax, email, or regular mail to the NIOSH Docket Office. Please be aware that your name, affiliation, and CV will be posted on the NIOSH /CDC website along with a peer review report containing the peer review comments, without individual attribution, and the NIOSH response to each comment. Your review comments may be disclosed to outside parties if NIOSH is requested to provide this information under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

We greatly appreciate your consideration to review of this document and look forward to obtaining your comments. Thank you for your assistance in this important review process.

Sincerely, Rick

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Document for Public Review and Comment:

September 2008

 NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium
 NIOSH Docket 144

Introduction and Purpose

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is conducting a public review of the NIOSH draft document "NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium." This draft NIOSH document provides a review of the available literature and an update of NIOSH policies on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds including an assessment of: (1) critical animal, human, and in vitro studies on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (2) relevant quantitative risk assessments about occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (3) appropriate methods for sampling and analysis of hexavalent chromium compounds in the workplace; (4) basis for the NIOSH revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds; and (5) other NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. This guidance document does not have the force and effect of law.

The purpose of the public review of the draft document and public meeting is to obtain public comments to ensure that: (1) this hazard identification is an accurate reflection of the available scientific studies; (2) the NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds are appropriate and justified, and (3) NIOSH has a transparent and scientific basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds. The overall goal of the review is to enhance the quality and credibility of Agency recommendations by ensuring that the scientific and technical work underlying these recommendations receives appropriate review by independent scientific and technical experts.

Charge to Peer Reviewers

The peer review charge was developed in accordance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines, is consistent with NIOSH peer review practice, and is intended to ensure that credible and appropriate science is used in the development of criteria documents and recommended exposure limits. The peer reviewers have been asked to consider the following questions:

1. Are the critical studies presented clearly and adequately?
2. Do all of the presented studies use scientifically valid methods and techniques?
3. Are there additional critical studies relevant to occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds that should be included?
4. Does NIOSH have a transparent and sound basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds?
5. Is the new NIOSH policy of providing general exposure assessment recommendations instead of a specific Action Level scientifically justified?
6. Are the NIOSH recommendations for worker protection clear and justified?
7. Are there additional recommendations for worker protection that should be included?

Public Meeting

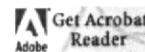
A public meeting will be held on Thursday, January 22, 2009 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Robert A. Taft Laboratory in Cincinnati, Ohio, as a forum for scientists and representatives of government agencies, industry, labor, and other stakeholders to discuss the document. The meeting will be open to the public, limited only by space available. Due to limited space and security clearance requirements, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made to the NIOSH Docket Office no later than January 7, 2009. Persons wanting to provide oral comments at the meeting are requested to notify the NIOSH Docket Office no later than January 7, 2009 at 513-533-8611 or by email at nioshdocket@cdc.gov. Priority for attendance will be given to those providing oral comments. Other requests to attend the meeting will then be accommodated on a first-come basis. Unreserved walk-in attendees will not be admitted due to security clearance requirements.

Non-U.S. Citizens: Because of CDC Security Regulations, any non-U.S. citizen wishing to attend this meeting must notify the NIOSH Docket Officer no later than December 30, 2008.

NIOSH Draft Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium September 2008

DRAFT-Criteria-Documents-Update-Occupational-Exposure-to-Hexavalent-Chromium.pdf
(899kb; 229 pages)

The free Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed to view these files.



Extension of Public Comment Period

Written comments on the document will be accepted from October 15, 2008 through March 31, 2009. NIOSH has extended the previous comment deadline of January 31, 2009 by 60 days to March 31, 2009 due to a request to allow the public more time to gather and submit information. Written comments can be submitted at the Public Meeting or sent to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226 by the close of business on March 31, 2009. All material submitted to the

Agency should reference docket number NIOSH-144. All electronic comments should be formatted as Microsoft Word and make reference to docket number NIOSH-144.

Comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. EST on March 31, 2009

To submit comments regarding this draft publication, please use one of these options:

- Send NIOSH comments using this [online form](#)
- Send comments by [email](#).
- Fax comments to the NIOSH Docket Office: 513-533-8285
- Send by Mail to:
NIOSH Docket Office
NIOSH Mailstop: C-34
Robert A. Taft Lab.
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, Ohio 45226

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reference the NIOSH Docket Number 063-A in the subject heading.

Background: NIOSH convened a similar stakeholders' meeting in March 2006 to seek input on the progress and future directions of the FFFIPP. The input provided by stakeholders at that meeting was useful in providing insight into stakeholder needs and in helping to improve the FFFIPP. The November 2008 meeting will be held to again seek stakeholder input.

Contact Person for Technical Information: Paul Moore, Chief, Fatality Investigations Team, Division of Safety Research, telephone (304) 285-6016 or Matt Bowyer, General Engineer, Fatality Investigations Team, (304) 285-5991.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

James D. Seligman,
Chief Information Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[FR Doc. E8-24732 Filed 10-16-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4163-19-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

[Docket Number NIOSH-144]

Notice of Request for Public To Submit Comments and Attend Meeting

AGENCY: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the availability of the following notice of public meeting and draft document available for public comment entitled "NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium." The document and instructions for submitting comments can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/144/>. Comments may be provided to the NIOSH docket, as well as given orally at the following meeting.

Public Comment Period: October 15, 2008-January 31, 2009.

Public Meeting Time and Date: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. EST, January 22, 2009.

Place: Robert A. Taft Laboratories, Taft Auditorium, NIOSH, CDC, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998.

Purpose of Meeting: To discuss and obtain comments on the draft document, "NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium." Special emphasis will be placed on discussion of the following:

1. Are the critical studies presented clearly and adequately?
2. Do all of the presented studies use scientifically valid methods and techniques?
3. Are there additional critical studies relevant to occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds that should be included?
4. Does NIOSH have a transparent and sound basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds?
5. Is the new NIOSH policy of providing general exposure assessment recommendations instead of a specific Action Level scientifically justified?
6. Are the NIOSH recommendations for worker protection clear and justified?
7. Are there additional recommendations for worker protection that should be included?

Status: The forum will include scientists and representatives from various government agencies, industry, labor, and other stakeholders, and is open to the public, limited only by the space available. The meeting room accommodates 80 people. Due to limited space and security clearance requirements, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made to the NIOSH Docket Office no later than January 7, 2009 for U.S. citizens, or no later than December 30, 2008 for non-U.S. citizens.* Persons wanting to provide oral comments at the meeting are requested to notify the NIOSH Docket Office no later than January 7, 2009 at (513) 533-8611 or by e-mail at nioshdocket@cdc.gov. Priority for attendance will be given to those providing oral comments. Other requests to attend the meeting will then be accommodated on a first-come basis. Unreserved walk-in attendees will not be admitted due to security clearance requirements.

Persons wanting to provide oral comments will be permitted up to 20 minutes. If additional time becomes available, presenters will be notified. Oral comments given at the meeting must also be submitted to the docket in writing in order to be considered by the Agency. Written comments will also be accepted at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted to the NIOSH Docket Office, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, MS C-34, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226, telephone (513) 533-8611. All material

submitted to the Agency should reference Docket Number NIOSH-144 and must be submitted by January 31, 2009 to be considered by the Agency. All electronic comments should be formatted as Microsoft Word. Please make reference to Docket Number NIOSH-144.

All information received in response to this notice will be available for public examination and copying at the NIOSH Docket Office, Room 111, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

*Non-U.S. Citizens: Because of CDC Security Regulations, any non-U.S. citizen wishing to attend this meeting must provide the following information in writing to the NIOSH Docket Officer at the address below no later than December 30, 2008. This information will be transmitted to the CDC Security Office for approval. Visitors will be notified as soon as approval has been obtained.

1. Name:
2. Gender:
3. Date of Birth:
4. Place of Birth (city, province, state, country):
5. Citizenship:
6. Passport Number:
7. Date of Passport Issue:
8. Date of Passport Expiration:
9. Type of Visa:
10. U.S. Naturalization Number (if a naturalized citizen)
11. U.S. Naturalization Date (if a naturalized citizen)
12. Visitor's Organization:
13. Organization Address:
14. Organization Telephone Number:
15. Visitor's Position/Title within the Organization:

Background: This draft NIOSH document provides a review of the available literature and provides an update of NIOSH policies on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds including an assessment of: (1) Critical animal, human, and in vitro studies on occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (2) relevant quantitative risk assessments about occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium; (3) appropriate methods for sampling and analysis of hexavalent chromium compounds in the workplace; (4) basis for the NIOSH revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds; and (5) other NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium. This guidance document does not have the force and effect of law.

The purpose of the public review of the draft document and public meeting

is to obtain public comments assessing whether: (1) This hazard identification is an accurate reflection of the available scientific studies; (2) the NIOSH recommendations for protecting workers from occupational exposure to hexavalent chromium compounds are appropriate and justified, and (3) NIOSH has a transparent and scientific basis for its revised Recommended Exposure Limit for hexavalent chromium compounds.

CONTACT PERSONS FOR TECHNICAL INFORMATION: Kathleen MacMahon, DVM; telephone (513) 533-8547; Mailstop C-32, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998.

Reference: "NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium" (public review draft). Web address for this document: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/review/public/144/>.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

James D. Seligman,
Chief Information Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
[FR Doc. E8-24728 Filed 10-16-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4163-19-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Notice of Public Meeting and Availability for Public Comment

AGENCY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

ACTION: Notice of Public Meeting and availability for Public Comment.

SUMMARY: The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announces the opportunity for the public to provide input regarding the plan (protocol) for a cohort study of persons formerly employed at the IBM facility in Endicott, New York.

Public Meeting Time and Date: 9 a.m.—4 p.m., November 8, 2008.

Place: Broome County Health Department, 225 Front Street, Binghamton, New York 13905.

Status: The meeting is open to the public, limited only by the space available (the room accommodates approximately 120 people). Broad participation is desired. Former

workers, representatives of professional societies, organized labor, employers, researchers, health professionals, and government officials are encouraged to attend. Those who cannot attend in person are encouraged to e-mail or mail comments to Dr. Douglas Trout (see below). Deadline for all comments is December 8, 2008.

Participants wishing to provide stakeholder comments may do so via e-mail or may request an opportunity to make a five minute presentation. Participants making a presentation at the meeting must submit their comments in writing at the time of the meeting. All participants (whether making a presentation or not) must register for the free meeting by sending an e-mail to Dr. Douglas Trout at DTTrout@cdc.gov with their name, affiliation, whether they are requesting time to speak briefly, and, if so, the general topic(s) on which they wish to speak. Participants wishing to speak are encouraged to register early.

Background: In response to public interest in the conduct of a study of cancer among former workers at IBM—Endicott, NIOSH conducted a feasibility effort to evaluate whether employee records were adequate to conduct a research study (a retrospective cohort mortality and cancer incidence study). This study protocol being developed makes extensive use of the information gathered during the feasibility effort, as well as a follow-up review of additional industrial hygiene, medical, and personnel records.

The protocol being reviewed describes the plan for a cohort study of persons formerly employed at the IBM facility in Endicott, New York, between 1965 and 2002. The health problems to be evaluated in the proposed study include mortality and cancer incidence among workers, as well as birth defects among offspring of these workers. Approximately 28,000 workers were employed by IBM—Endicott for at least one year during the period between 1965 and 2002.

The meeting will consist of two parts: (1) External peer review of the research protocol. Peer reviewers external to CDC will be present to provide their individual technical (scientific) review comments for the project officers to maximize the relevance and quality of the proposed research; and (2) Stakeholder meeting. The latter part of the meeting will be structured to hear stakeholder comments on important occupational safety and health issues related to this research.

Contact Person for Technical Information: Dr. Douglas Trout, MD, MHS, Associate Director for Science,

Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies, NIOSH, telephone (513) 841-4428. Comments, meeting registrations, and requests for a copy of the protocol may be e-mailed to DTTrout@cdc.gov or sent via mail to Dr. Douglas Trout, NIOSH, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Mailstop R12, Cincinnati, Ohio 45226.

Dated: October 9, 2008.

James D. Seligman,
Chief Information Officer, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
[FR Doc. E8-24731 Filed 10-16-08; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4163-19-P

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families

Proposed Information Collection Activity; Comment Request

Proposed Project:

Title: Evaluation of the Community Healthy Marriage Initiative—Impact Evaluation Wave 2.

OMB No.: 0970-0322.

Description: The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), is conducting a demonstration and evaluation called the Community Healthy Marriage Initiative (CHMI). Demonstration programs have been funded through Healthy Marriage and Responsible Fatherhood grants authorized under section 403(a)(2) of the Social Security Act to support healthy marriage directly and to encourage community changes that increase support for healthy marriages and improve child and family well-being. The objective of the evaluation is to: (1) Assess the implementation of community interventions designed to provide marriage education by examining the way the projects operate and by examining child support outcomes among low-income families in the community; and (2) evaluate the community impacts of these interventions on marital stability and satisfaction, child well-being and child support outcomes among low income families.

The purpose of this information collection is to conduct a follow-up survey of respondents from Wave 1 who live in the communities where CHMI demonstrations are operating, and a survey of CHMI program participants. The impact evaluation will assess the effects of community healthy marriage initiatives by comparing family and child well-being outcomes in the CHMI

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
Education and Information Division External Peer Review
Conflict of Interest Certification

Project Title:

NIOSH Criteria Document Update: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium

This will certify that in the review identified above, to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, I do not have a conflict of interest. For the purposes of this representation, an individual will be considered as having a conflict of interest in providing a review if that person or his/her spouse, parent, minor child, or partner: (1) serves as an officer, director, trustee, partner, or employee of the applicant, its parent or subsidiary organization; (2) is negotiating (or has an arrangement concerning) prospective employment (or other similar association) with the applicant, its parent or subsidiary organization; (3) has a financial interest, within the meaning of 18 USC 208, in an application or in an applicant, its parent or subsidiary organization; or (4) any other reason that would preclude an objective evaluation.

Print Name

Signature

Date
