




California Department of Public Health MEMORANDUM

TO: Steve Smith, Supervising Industrial Hygienist, Cal/OSHA

FROM: Julia Quint, Chief of HESIS 

DATE: July 16, 2007

SUBJECT: Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service (HESIS) Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) Recommendations

Attached are HESIS PEL recommendations for 18 substances that we would like reviewed as Priority 1 by the recently convened 5155 PEL Advisory Committee. Due to a lack of data, we were unable to develop a proposed PEL for di-*n*-butyl phthalate, but consider it a high priority substance because of its known effects on the endocrine system at low levels, and the large number of women of reproductive age who may be exposed to di-*n*-butyl phthalate in the nail salon industry.

HESIS has not yet received the final report from the Cal/EPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for the contract project we initiated in 2004 to assist us in carrying out our legislative mandate to develop recommendations for PELs that protect against cancer, reproductive and developmental toxicity, and other chronic health hazards. A copy of the scope of work for the OEHHA contract project is attached. I referred to the report at the June 19th Cal/OSHA PEL Update Advisory Committee meeting because I expected to receive it the following week. According to OEHHA staff, the report has been approved by Cal/EPA, but not released. We will share the report with Cal/OSHA as soon as possible after we have had a chance to review it for compliance with the goals of the contract.

As shown in the footnotes to the attached table, HESIS developed the PEL recommendations using available OEHHA unit risk assessment values and the described methodology that we have used previously to develop PEL recommendations. The scope of the recommendations may change, however, after we review the contract report.

The use of OEHHA-based quantitative risk assessment data and resources to develop Cal/OSHA PELs is consistent with the technical assistance HESIS provided to the previous 5155 Advisory Committee. It also conforms to the 1980 Benzene Decision, and to the methodology used to develop PELs for existing regulated Cal/OSHA carcinogens and reproductive toxicants such as ethylene oxide.

We hope that the attached recommendations and the OEHHA report will help to expedite the process of developing recommended PELs for the new 5155 Advisory Committee.

Please contact me at juliaquint@sbcglobal.net or Barbara Materna if you have questions or if you need more information.

cc: Barbara Materna, Chief, Occupational Health Branch,
California Department of Public Health