

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning topics – July 2021

Introduction

1. This paper presents the regular follow up to the last full horizon scanning held in November 2020 outlining the topics identified during that discussion and an update on topics being considered by IARC and the EU Scientific Committees.

Topics from COC horizon scanning 2020

2. Below are the priority topics agreed at the horizon scan in November 2020:
- Maintain a watching brief on factors affecting cancer susceptibility including shift work, stress and other lifestyle factors and how that might affect assessment of chemicals and carcinogenicity
 - Consider an update to guidance on assessment of nanomaterials, possibly as a joint activity across COC, COM and COT
 - Gain awareness of the potential effects of antibiotics and antivirals on the microbiome
 - Consider a joint discussion with COM on thresholds for in vivo mutagens and whether there is new information subsequent to the 2010 COM opinion

Joint horizon scanning topics

3. On 24th -25th November 2020, the COC and COM held a joint meeting to which COT members were also invited, and one of the discussion items was joint horizon scanning. From this discussion, the following topics were agreed and the Secretariats will consider how to progress these either as joint topics or which Committee might lead on these:

- Use of toxicogenomics/omics technologies in toxicity testing
- PBPK modelling – a COT workshop was held the following week; COC members participating may wish to feed back on this.
- Next generation sequencing
- Further exploration of microplastics/microparticles and their composition – also linking with COMEAP
- Development of a dynamic cancer risk model, including consideration that pre-cancer effects are assessed as 'general' toxicity pathways, and other influencers on cancer/toxicity risk (e.g. shift work)

This is a background paper for discussion.
It does not reflect the views of the Committee and should not be cited.

- Knowledge sharing across the three Committees, including impacts of EU Exit
- Consideration of uncertainty, use of uncertainty factors and margins of exposure – noting this also links with other activities.

COM and COT horizon scanning topics

4. The Committee has previously requested sight of the COM and COT horizon scanning activities. The COM held a horizon scanning discussion at its June 2021 meeting, and the minutes for this will be provided to the COC when available.

Work on NAMs

5. The COC has expressed interest in New Approach Methodologies (NAMs), which links in with a number of the horizon scanning topics. The Food Standards Agency and the COT have developed a UK roadmap towards acceptance and integration of NAMs, and the recent paper presented at the July 2021 COT meeting is attached at Annex A.

Work following EU Exit and Transition

6. The Committee has asked to be kept up to date on relevant activities following EU Exit and the end of the transition period. Paper CC-2021-14 on the current agenda outlines the terms of reference for the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Scientific Advisory Group on Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products (SAG-CS).

Presentation on NIHR Health Protection Research Units

7. Some Members of the COC may be aware of the NIHR Health Protection Research Units (HPRUs), which are collaborative research projects between Universities and PHE. Professor Tim Gant (PHE) will be joining the July 2021 COC meeting to give a presentation on these to give the Committee a greater understanding of them.

Upcoming IARC meetings

8. IARC have three upcoming meetings on their website with respect to the Monograph series (<https://monographs.iarc.who.int/iarc-monographs-meetings/>):

- Meeting 130 (5-12 October 2021) is on:
 - 1,1,1-Trichloroethane (CAS No. 71-55-6)
 - Hydrazobenzene (CAS No. 122-66-7)
 - N-Methylolacrylamide (CAS No. 924-42-5)
 - Diphenylamine (CAS No. 122-39-4)
 - Isophorone (CAS No. 78-59-1)

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- Meeting 131 (8-15 March 2022) is on:
 - Cobalt Metal (without Tungsten Carbide) (CAS No. 7440-48-4) and Cobalt (II) Salts (CAS No. 10026-24-1)
 - Weapons-Grade Tungsten (with Nickel and Cobalt) Alloy (CAS No. None)
 - Antimony Trioxide (CAS No. 1309-64-4)
- Meeting 132 (7-14 June 2022) is on:
 - Occupational Exposure as a Firefighter

Upcoming EU Scientific Committee topics

9. The agenda and minutes of recent EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) Plenary meetings are attached in Annex B. SCCS has working groups on:

- Cosmetic Ingredients (last meeting 26/05/2021)
- Nanomaterials in Cosmetic Products (last meeting 20/05/2021), and
- Methodologies (last meeting 28/05/2021).

10. The agenda and minutes of recent EU Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) Plenary meetings are attached in Annex C. SCHEER has working groups on:

- Aluminium in toys (last meeting 27/09/2017)
- Anaerobic biodegradation of linear alkylbenzene sulphonates (last meeting 03/02/2020)
- Safety of breast implants in relation to anaplastic large cell lymphoma (last meeting 10/03/2021)
- E-cigarettes (last meeting 28/04/2021)
- Certain organic chemicals emitted from squishy toys (last meeting 08/04/2021)
- Safety of Cobalt in toys (last meeting 04/06/2021)
- Draft Environmental Quality Standards for the Water Framework Directive Priority Substances & groundwater quality standards (last meeting 28/06/2021)
- Emerging environmental risks (last meeting 11/09/2018)
- Emerging issues at the environment-social interface (last meeting 04/07/2019)
- Fuel marker (last meeting 09/01/2019)
- Nuclear taxonomy (last meeting 28/06/2021)
- Guidelines on the benefit-risk assessment of the presence of phthalates in certain medical devices (last meeting 05-06/06/2019)
- Guidance on the structure and contents of SCHEER opinions (last meeting 17/06/2016)
- Potential risks to human health of light emitting diodes (last meeting 02/03/2018)
- Non-human primates testing (last meeting 02/05/2017)

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- Onshore hydrocarbon exploration and production in the EU (last meeting 24/09/2018)
- Safety of PIP silicone breast implants (last meeting 10/10/2017)
- Rapid risk assessment (last meeting 26-27/11/2019)
- Sunbeds (last meeting 24-25/10/2016)
- Tobacco additives (last meeting 24/06/2016)
- UVC lamps (last meeting 18/01/2017)
- Weight of evidence and uncertainties (last meeting 08/02/2018)
- Water Framework Directive (last meeting 01/06/2017), and
- Water reuse (last meeting 12/05/2017).

11. The European Food Safety Authority has a substantial body of work across its Scientific Committee and Panels. More detail is available here:

<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels>. EFSA

currently has open consultations on a number of substances, and also on methodological questions. The full list of open consultations is here:

<https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation>. Expected upcoming consultations are here:

https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation?PublicConsultation_c-filterId=00B1v000009p1GZEAY.

Question for the Committee

12. Members are asked to consider this material and whether there are any further topics to consider for future horizon scanning.

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July 2021

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CC/2021/11 Annex A

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UK New Approach Methodologies Roadmap (TOX/2021/31)

Available: <https://cot.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-06/TOX-2021-31%20UK%20NAMs%20Roadmap.pdf>

This paper is attached. It is not being made publicly available for copyright reasons

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July 2021**

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CC/2021/11 Annex B

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Agenda and minutes of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety Plenary
meetings 2016-2021 15th and 16th meetings.

Available:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/consumer_safety/minutes_plenary_en

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CC/2021/11 Annex C

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Agenda and minutes of the Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and
Emerging Risks Plenary meetings 2016-2021 18th meeting.

Available:

https://ec.europa.eu/health/scientific_committees/scheer/minutes_plenary_en

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