

COMMITTEES ON CARCINOGENICITY AND MUTAGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COC and COM)

For information: COC and COM List of Guidance Statements

COC Guidance Statements – Overview

The COC has published guidance since 1982 and in 2010 it was agreed that rather than publishing its guidance in a single longer document a series of standalone documents would be prepared. This would facilitate keeping documents up to date with new developments.

Each document is reviewed every 2-3 years where the Committee decides whether to include some minor updates or to conduct a full revision of the document.

The full series is published on the Committee website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coc-guidance-statements#guidance-statements>

Statements:

- G01 [A Strategy for the Risk Assessment of Chemical Carcinogenicity](#)
v 4.0 – 2012; v 5.0 – 2020 awaiting publication
- G02 [Report of the Synthesising Epidemiological Evidence Subgroup \(SEES\) of the Committee on Toxicity and Committee on Carcinogenicity](#)
v 1.0 – 2017
- G03 [Hazard identification and characterisation: conduct and interpretation of animal carcinogenicity studies](#)
v 1.1 – 2018; draft v 1.2 being reviewed alongside G07
- G04 [The use of biomarkers in carcinogenic risk assessment](#)
v 1.1 – 2018
- G05 [Defining a point of departure and potency estimates in carcinogenic dose response](#)
v 1.1 – 2018; v 2.0 – 2020 awaiting publication

- G06 [Cancer Risk Characterisation Methods](#)
v 1.1 – 2018; draft v 1.2 being finalised
- G07 [Alternatives to the 2-year bioassay](#)
V 1.1 – 2018; draft v 1.2 being reviewed alongside G03
- G08 [Statement on the risk assessment of the effects of combined exposure to multiple chemicals on carcinogenicity](#)
V 1.0 – 2010; v 2.0 – 2020 awaiting publication
- G09 [COC set of principles for consideration of risk due to less than lifetime exposure](#)
V 1.0 – 2019
- G10 [Joint COT, COM and COC statement on nanomaterial toxicology](#)
V 1.0 – 2005 (COT and COM have undertaken unilateral updates subsequently)

Current considerations in reviewing the COC guidance is to ensure assessment of carcinogenicity reflects knowledge of the processes that lead to cancer and considerations of reduction, replacement and refinement of animal use in such assessments.

Joint COC and COT activities

In recent years there have been two joint subgroups of COC and COT. The first, the synthesising epidemiological evidence subgroup (SEES), was set up in 2015, and its aim was to review and document current practice, given recent international and national development of methods by which epidemiological evidence is synthesised, and to make recommendations for COT/COC guidance. [The SEES report](#) was published in 2018.

The second subgroup, the synthesis and integration of epidemiological and toxicological evidence subgroup (SETE), is ongoing. Its aim is to review the approaches to synthesising and integrating epidemiological and toxicological evidence that are used by COT and COC in chemical risk assessments and to provide a pragmatic guidance and transparent reflection of how the COT and COC review data and apply expert judgement. Further information is available on the subgroup website: <https://cot.food.gov.uk/SETEworkinggroup>

COM Guidance Statements – Overview

The COM published guidance in 1981, which was updated in 1989 and again in 2000.

Since 2017, this guidance statement has been reviewed and separate documents a series of new documents which cover some specific aspects have been drafted. Separate documents on Nanomaterial genotoxicity testing, 3D models used in genotoxicity testing, germ cell mutagens and quantitative structural activity relationships (QSARs) in the assessment of genotoxicity, will be published and updated as necessary and on a regular basis.

The current statements are published on the Committee website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/com-guidance-statements#guidance-statements>

Statements:

- G1 Strategy [Guidance on a strategy for genotoxicity testing of chemical substances](#)
v 3.0 – 2011; draft v 4.0 being finalised
- G1.1 [Guidance on a strategy for genotoxicity testing of chemical substances: preliminary considerations](#)
v 1.0 – 2011; draft v 2.0 being finalised
- G1.2 [Guidance on a strategy for genotoxicity testing of chemical substances: in vitro assessment](#)
v 1.0 – 2011; draft v 2.0 being finalised
- G1.3 [Guidance on a strategy for genotoxicity testing of chemical substances: in vivo testing](#)
v 1.0 – 2011; draft v 2.0 being finalised
- G2 [Guidance on a strategy for chemicals with inadequate genotoxicity data](#)
v 1.0 – 2011
- G3 [Genotoxicity assessment of impurities in chemical substances](#)
v 1.0 – 2012
- G4 [Assessment of thresholds for in vivo mutagens](#)
v 1.0 – 2010;
- G5 Assessment of genotoxicity of nanomaterials
Draft V1.0 being finalised
- G6 Use of 3D models in genotoxicity testing
Draft V1.0 being finalised

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

- G7 Evaluation of germ cell mutagens
Draft V1.0 being finalised
- G8 Use of QSARs in the genotoxicity testing
Draft V1.0 being finalised

Secretariat
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