Press Release
7 February 2019

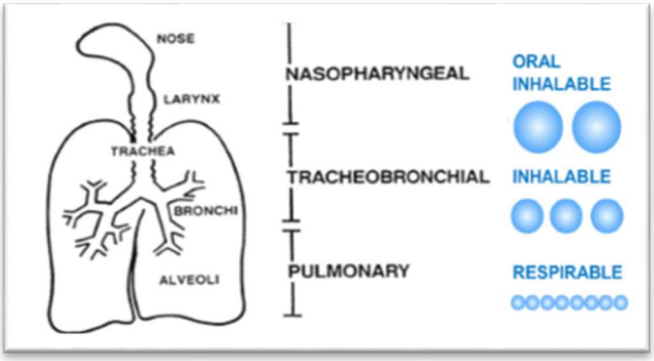
ACGIH publishes new TLV for ATO, with comments due by 31 May 2019

On 1 February 2019, ACGIH* released an updated TLV proposal for ATO. The documentation can be downloaded from: https://www.acgih.org/tlv-bei-guidelines/documentation-publications-and-data/notice-of-intended-changes/notice-of-intended-changes-list.

The revised TLV proposed by ACGIH in 2019 is:

0.02 mg ***inhalable*** Sb/m³.

ACGIH calculated this value by transforming the lowest concentration of ***respirable*** ATO at which the NTP studies' mice and rats developed adverse chronic lung effects (3 mg Sb/m³) into a human equivalent concentration, and further dividing it by a number of uncertainty factors. This calculation mostly boils down to interpreting the very recent NTP toxicological animal evidence against the very limited reliable and relevant workplace exposure information available. However, very little detail is provided regarding the fashion in which ***respirable*** aerosol impacts in the NTP studies were converted to a proposed ***inhalable*** limit or the uncertainty factors that were applied in ACGIH's derivation of the proposed TLV.



i2a's actions

Since 1979, the TLV recommended by ACGIH for ATO has been 0.5 mg ***inhalable*** Sb/m³. In 2017, following the release of the US NTP Carcinogenicity studies on ATO, ACGIH proposed a TLV of 0.03 mg ***respirable*** Sb/m³. After i2a had provided comments on this draft proposal, the proposed TLV was withdrawn by ACGIH.

i2a intends to submit comments on the 2019 draft TLV proposal (in particular about the fundamental omission of important scientific details) and inform ACGIH about its workplace monitoring program starting soon. The data collected through this program should replace a number of old, incomplete and unreliable workplace monitoring data ACGIH is currently referring to.

In addition, i2a will meet with US users of Sb substances in order to encourage them to join i2a's Workplace Monitoring Program, and provide recent workplace data to ACGIH.

What should suppliers and users of ATO do?

Suppliers of ATO should whenever possible, recommend to their customers to use low-dust or dust-free forms of ATO (e.g. wetted powders, masterbatches, or sealed bags). In addition, producers and users of ATO should:

1. Check what current workplace levels of Sb are measured on-site, and determine the compliance and financial impact the revised OEL would have on your facilities.
2. Join i2a's Workplace Monitoring Program and provide recent workplace data to ACGIH (cf. www.antimony.com/workplace).
3. Submit comments to the ACGIH new TLV proposal before 31 May 2019 (either via i2a or separately).

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International Antimony Association
i2a

About i2a

The mission of the International Antimony Association is to inspire product stewardship along the antimony value chain. This mission is accomplished by generating and sharing information concerning the environmental and health safety and societal benefits of antimony and antimony compounds. Through a common evidence base, i2a promotes a harmonized risk management and continued safe use of antimony and antimony substances across the value chain and geographical borders.
For further information: www.antimony.com.

Acronyms

ACGIH: American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
AGW: Arbeitsplatzgrenzwert (German binding OEL)
ATO: Antimony Trioxide
NTP: US National Toxicology Program
TLV: Threshold Limit Value

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