Particularly Hazardous Substances Definitions

Particularly hazardous substances fall into the following three major categories: acute toxins, reproductive toxins and carcinogens.

**Acute Toxins**

Substances that have a high degree of acute toxicity are substances that may be fatal or cause damage to target organs as the result of a single exposure or exposures of short duration. They can be defined as:

1. A chemical with a median lethal dose (LD50) of 50 mg or less per Kg of body weight when administered orally to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 gm each;
2. A chemical with a median lethal dose (LD50) of 200 mg or less per Kg of body weight when administered by continuous contact for 24 hours (or less if death occurs within 24 hours) with the bare skin of albino rabbits weighing between 2 and 3 Kg each; and
3. A chemical that has a median lethal concentration (LC50) in air of 5000 ppm by volume or less of gas or vapor, or 50 mg per liter or less of mist, fume, or dust, when administered by continuous inhalation for 1 hour (or less if death occurs within 1 hour) to albino rats weighing between 200 and 300 gm each.

**Reproductive Toxins**

Reproductive toxins include any chemical that may affect the reproductive capabilities including chromosomal damage (mutations) and effects on fetuses (teratogenesis). A list of reproductive toxins is maintained online at [http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html](http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/prop65_list/Newlist.html).

**Carcinogens**

Carcinogens are chemical or physical agents that cause cancer. Generally, they are chronically toxic substances; that is, they cause damage after repeated or long-duration exposure, and their effects may only become evident after a long latency period.

The term “regulated carcinogen” means a recognized cancer causing substance, compound, mixture, or product regulated by Cal/OSHA sections 1529, 1532, 1532.2, 1535, 8358, 8359 or Article 110, sections 5200-5220. See [Attachment B for the specific list of Regulated Carcinogens](#).

The term “Listed Carcinogen” refers to a specific list of 13 chemicals regulated by Cal/OSHA and Federal OSHA and has specific use and handling requirements. See [Attachment C for the specific list of Listed Carcinogens](#).

The term “select carcinogen” refers to a category of chemicals where the available evidence strongly indicates that the substances cause human carcinogenicity. A select carcinogen meets one of the following criteria:

1. It is regulated by Cal/OSHA as a carcinogen; or
2. It is listed under the category “known to be carcinogens” in the annual report by the National Toxicology Program (NTP); or
3. It is listed under Group 1 – “carcinogenic to humans” – by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC); or
4. It is listed in either Group 2A or Group 2B by the IARC or under the category “reasonably anticipated to be carcinogens” by the NTP, and causes statistically significant tumor incidence in experimental animals in accordance with any of the following criteria:
   a. After inhalation exposure of 6-7 hours per day, 5 days per week, for a significant portion of a lifetime to dosages of less than 10 mg/m3;
   b. After repeated skin application of less than 300 mg/kg of body weight per week; or
   c. After oral dosages of less than 50 mg/kg of body weight per day.