



WHO Chemical Safety - Activity Report 2015

This document presents a summary of WHO Headquarters Chemical Safety activities undertaken in 2015.

It covers the following areas:

1. Chemical Risk Assessment Network.
2. Tools for Assessing Chemical Risks (chemical risk assessment methodologies).
3. Health Impacts of Chemicals (chemical risk assessments).
4. Poisons Prevention, Information and Management.
5. Chemical Incidents and Emergencies.
6. Promoting Health in International Conventions and Agreements.

A list of WHO/IPCS publications is given in [Annex 1](#) and a list of WHO/IPCS Events in 2015 is given in [Annex 2](#).

1. CHEMICAL RISK ASSESSMENT NETWORK

1.1 Network Management and Meeting

During 2015 the membership of the Network increased to 61 participants (on an institutional basis) from 32 countries. Several activities were taken forward under the umbrella of the Network (relating to mode of action, combined exposures, chemical-specific adjustment factors, and immunotoxicity of nanomaterials) and these are detailed in the relevant sections below. Network Participants were kept informed by a number of broadcast emails and two published Newsletters during 2015. An introductory webinar on systematic review in chemical risk assessment was held in November 2015, attended by more than 50 participants from Network institutions. The webinar was informed by an earlier survey of Network institutions on use of systematic review methods. Further Network activities on systematic review will be undertaken during 2016 building on the interest shown during the webinar.

A Network Coordinating Group was established during 2015. This group facilitates coordination of Network activities, reviews progress and considers overarching issues, and consists of the individuals who lead the different Network activities. The group held its first teleconference in September 2015.

A meeting of Network Participants and candidate institutions from developing countries took place from 2-4 December in Bangkok, Thailand. This “sub-Network” meeting was attended by 25 participants from 21 countries and provided an opportunity to exchange experiences on chemical risk assessment in low resource settings. Risk assessment tools from international organizations were promoted and the meeting discussed a number of project proposals for the Network, to be led by developing country participants.

Details of Network membership and the ongoing activities are presented on the dedicated Network web pages.



WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network webpages

<http://www.who.int/ipcs/network/en/>

1.2 Capacity Building in Chemical Risk Assessment

- **Face to face training:** A number of activities have been supported to strengthen risk assessment capacities in countries and to introduce and promote the use of the WHO Human Health Risk Assessment Toolkit, including:
 - International Training Course on Environmental and Health Risk Assessment and Management of Toxic Chemicals, 5-18 December 2015, Bangkok, Thailand.
 - On 13 September a one-day Continuing Education Course was delivered at EUROTOX 2015, Porto, to promote uptake and use of the 2014 publication *Guidance on Characterizing and Expressing Uncertainty in Hazard Assessment of Chemicals* (Harmonization Document No. 11).
- **On-line database of chemical risk assessment training:** In partnership with ILSI/HESI, an on-line database was maintained containing chemical risk assessment training courses worldwide. The database allows for searching for in-person and online post- and undergraduate, continuing education and society-sponsored training courses, of a non-profit nature.



Chemical Risk Assessment Training Course Database

<https://www.risktraindb.org/>

2. TOOLS FOR ASSESSING CHEMICAL RISKS

2.1 The WHO/IPCS Harmonization Project

The WHO/IPCS “*Project on the Harmonization of Approaches to the Assessment of Risk from Exposure to Chemicals*” (commonly referred to as the “Harmonization Project”) aims to harmonize global approaches to risk assessment through both increased understanding and agreement on basic principles, and to develop international guidance documents on specific issues.

Two collaborative forums were established under the umbrella of the WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Network, one on the topic of Mode of Action and the other on Combined Exposures. The aim of these groups is to provide a forum for Network Participants to share information about their activities on the topic, and to coordinate activities as necessary. The groups consist of experts from institutions which are leading the development of new methods in these topic areas, and the groups aim to meet several times per year via teleconference.

A project was started to review the use of WHO guidance on Chemical-Specific Adjustment Factors (CSAFs) in the ten years since publication in 2005 (Harmonization Project Document No. 2 http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/43294/1/9241546786_eng.pdf). A working group was formed and a call for data was issued for examples of chemical risk assessments

which had considered the use of CSAFs. The responses (from Network Participants and from OECD Task Force on Hazard Assessment contacts) were collated and a manuscript is now being drafted for review at a WHO expert meeting during 2016.

2.2. Environmental Health Criteria (EHC) and other Methodology Documents

Under the umbrella of the Chemical Risk Assessment Network, and with the WHO Collaborating Centre at RIVM, work commenced on an Environmental Health Criteria Document on *Principles and Methods for assessing the risk of immunotoxicity associated with exposure to nanomaterials*. An expert meeting, convened at RIVM, Bilthoven, on 8-9 April 2015, developed an outline for the document. A drafting group worked through 2015 to prepare an initial version of the document, which will be considered by the drafting group at a meeting scheduled for 30 March – 1 April at RIVM.

During 2015, the EHC 242 on Dermal Exposure was printed and distributed in hard copy. This EHC is a complementary document to the EHC 235 on Dermal Absorption. It describes sources and pathways of dermal exposure, models and tools to estimate dermal exposure, and methods for dermal exposure prevention and reduction. Furthermore, the EHC discusses skin diseases associated with dermal exposure. This EHC aims to provide information to national regulatory authorities to assist in conducting health risk assessments and managing the risk involving dermal exposure to chemicals. Hard copies were distributed to ministries of health, WHO offices, a range of public health institutes and libraries and to subscribers to WHO publications on chemicals and environmental health.



EHC 242 – Dermal Exposure

http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/ehc/ehc_242.pdf

3. HEALTH IMPACTS OF CHEMICALS

3.1 Chemical Risk Assessment Documents

- **DDT:** The continued exemption for the use of DDT for disease vector control under the Stockholm Convention is reviewed every two years. In support of this process, the published WHO risk assessment for use of DDT in indoor residual spraying (published in 2010 as EHC 241) is also kept under review to determine if a re-evaluation is necessary. This includes a review of the literature published each year and the consideration of any other evidence which becomes available.

During 2015 WHO/IPCS reported to the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (May 2015) that the 2010 risk assessment for DDT was still considered to be valid. WHO/IPCS also provided support to assessment of the carcinogenicity of DDT which was conducted by the IARC Monographs programme in June 2015. The role of WHO/IPCS at the IARC meeting included ensuring that the continuing use of DDT in disease vector control, as provided for in the Stockholm Convention, was correctly understood by the experts and described in the monograph. The conclusions of the resulting IARC monograph were closely compared to the evaluation for carcinogenicity which was included within the 2010 WHO risk assessment to ensure that the assessment remained valid.

- **IARC evaluations of organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides:** In addition to DDT, support was also provided to the IARC assessment of lindane in respect of past WHO recommendations for public health uses of lindane and the position of lindane

under the Stockholm Convention. The implications of the IARC monograph conclusions on malathion with respect to the WHO recommended uses of malathion for disease vector control were also examined.

- **Chrysotile Asbestos:** This publication provides a concise summary of the WHO evidence on health effects of chrysotile (including IARC conclusions) in a convenient form for government decision-makers. The publication also reproduces the WHO short information document for decision-makers on the elimination of asbestos-related diseases, and contains information addressing key questions commonly raised in policy discussions on chrysotile. The conclusions drawn from WHO assessments of some alternatives to chrysotile are also included. During 2015, versions of this document in the 6 UN languages were made available on the WHO web site and were printed and distributed in hard copy. In addition to the distribution to ministries of health, WHO offices and public health institutes and libraries, additional copies were also distributed at regional and global meetings and workshops convened under the Rotterdam Convention. By using language aimed at government decision-makers, an attractive, easily accessible format and providing versions in languages, it is intended that this publication can assist governments to stop the use of all forms of asbestos. WHO Regional and Country Offices have subsequently made versions of this publication in local languages, in addition to videos and other advocacy materials relating to asbestos which are available via the WHO/IPCS web site.



Chrysotile Asbestos (English version).

http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/assessment/public_health/chrysotile_asbestos_summary.pdf

3.2 International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs)

WHO work on the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) continues to be a major point of collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). ICSCs are available for approximately 1700 chemicals.

The ICSC collection is disseminated via a web-based interface (<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/icsc/>) which is linked directly to the underlying database. This means that the up-to-date version of each ICSC is immediately available via a single source, and this mechanism is gradually replacing the diverse sources of ICSCs used in the past. The diverse collections of language versions are similarly being replaced by this single source. There are currently seven language versions available, with a further four languages being translated.

GHS classifications continue to be made for new and updated International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs). The corresponding hazard statements, signal words and symbols are included on the ICSCs. To date, GHS classifications have been included on 450 ICSCs.

A peer review meeting for the ICSCs was held 22-26 June 2015, at which 30 ICSCs were created or revised.

ICSCs continue to be available through the INCHEM website (www.inchem.org). As an interim measure, collections of ICSCs in other languages can also be found on the websites of participating institutions such as US NIOSH (www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/icstart.html).



International Chemical Safety Cards.

<http://www.ilo.org/dyn/icsc/>

3.3 IPCS INCHEM website (<http://www.inchem.org>)

This website, hosted on behalf of WHO/IPCS by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS), enables WHO/IPCS to disseminate its collections of risk assessment documents and the ICSCs to a wider audience. The INCHEM collection is long established and ranks highly in internet search engine results, as well as allowing powerful search options within the collections.

During 2015 there were 1.4 million visits to the INCHEM web site, with 24.2% of visitors (334,000) being repeat visitors. Approximately 30% of visitors (420,000) accessed the INCHEM collection either directly or via links from other web sites, with the remaining 70% reaching the site via a search engine. These statistics demonstrate that the INCHEM collection is a very well established internet data source, with many direct users or referrals from other web sites.

The INCHEM collection is also included within the databases which can be searched via the OECD eChemPortal [www.oecd.org/ehs/eChemPortal]. WHO/IPCS also contributed to the Steering Group for the development of the eChemPortal during 2015.

3.4 Advocacy on Chemicals of Public Health Concern

The WHO project on Chemicals of Public Health Concern aims to raise awareness, advocate for action, and facilitate access to tools for action on selected chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern has been updated regularly. These are: (a) arsenic; (b) asbestos; (c) benzene; (d) cadmium; (e) highly hazardous pesticides; (f) inadequate or excess fluoride intake; (g) lead; (h) mercury; (h) major air pollutants; and (i) polychlorinated dibenzodioxins and dioxin-like compounds. The primary target group is decision-makers from WHO Member States.

A web entry point provides easy access to the range of WHO resources on each of the 10 chemicals. The resources include: short documents for decision makers; tools for action; norms and guidance values; educational material; and further information (such as WHO assessments, burden of disease information, fact sheets and other information). In 2015, web information on the 10 chemicals was updated regularly to include newly developed materials.



10 Chemicals of Major Public Health Concern web site.

http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/chemicals_phc/en/index.html

3.5 Classification of Pesticides by Hazard

The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard was first published in 1975, and has been revised and reissued with new and updated information every few years. This WHO publication has gained wide international acceptance, in particular among developing countries. The *International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides* has been adopted by WHO since 2014. The WHO Classification document plays a significant role in the identification of Highly Hazardous Pesticides, which are a key aspect of many of the principles in the Code. The WHO Classification also plays a significant role in two Guideline documents which support the Code – one on the management of Highly Hazardous Pesticides and the other on Good Labelling Practice for pesticides which have been developed through the Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPM) during 2014-15.

The role of the WHO Classification in identifying HHPs was presented at the Rotterdam Convention Science Fair in May 2015.

4. POISONS PREVENTION, INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT

4.1 Poisons Information and Management

A report on the health hazards associated recycling used lead acid batteries has been drafted and will be finalised in 2016.

4.2 Network of poisons centres

A project funded by the SAICM¹ Quick Start Programme (QSP) to assess the feasibility of a subregional poisons centre in East Africa started was completed in 2014. In 2015 funds became available for the publication of a short book summarising the outcomes of the project and including guidance on establishing a poisons centre. This was published in English and French and has been distributed via the WHO Regional Office for Africa and at ICCM4. The booklets are also available on the WHO website.



Improving the availability of poisons centre services in Eastern Africa
http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/centre/study_afro/en/

The United Republic of Tanzania was one of the countries involved in the above project and in 2015 a poisons centre was established by the Government Chemical Laboratory Agency (GCLA) in Dar Es Salaam. WHO/IPCS arranged a study visit for the new Coordinator of the poisons centre to the Tygerberg and Red Cross poisons centres in Cape Town, South Africa in October 2015.

The poisons centre service in Cape Town, South Africa underwent a fundamental reorganization during 2015 with the two existing poisons centres pooling their resources to provide 24-hour cover. A similar arrangement operates in the UK and a study visit was arranged at the National Poisons Information Service (Edinburgh) for the Call Centre Manager of the new service in May 2015.

Support has also been provided for the poisons centre in Baghdad, Iraq. Working with colleagues in the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, WHO/IPCS arranged for the Director of the poisons centre in Lille to meet with personnel from the Iraq National Poisons Centre and from the Ministry of Health to discuss capacity needs. Assistance has been provided in sourcing antidotes for the poisons centre and arrangements are being made to provide a study visit for head of the toxicology laboratory.

4.3 WHO Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Lead Poisoning

The guidelines for the management of lead poisoning are close to completion following a meeting of the guideline development group on 7-9 December in Geneva, Switzerland. These

¹ Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

guidelines will be published in 2016. Work is continuing on the guidelines for the prevention of lead poisoning, however, a small number of systematic evidence reviews on interventions for prevention are still required.

4.4 Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Work has continued on the implementation of resolution II/4B of the International Conference on Chemicals Management on eliminating lead from paint through the initiative established by WHO jointly with UNEP, known as the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (short name: the Lead Paint Alliance).

The overall goal of the Lead Paint Alliance is to prevent children's exposure to lead through paints containing lead and to minimize occupational exposures to lead in paint. The broad objective is to phase out the manufacture and sale of paints containing lead and eventually to eliminate the risks that such paints pose.

An Action Plan for the work of the Alliance in 2015-2016 was jointly developed by UNEP, WHO and the Chair of the Alliance's Advisory Group (the US EPA). A new Advisory Group for the Alliance was formed, including a number of ministries of health among the government members. A face-to-face meeting of the Advisory Group was convened by UNEP and WHO on 27 September, in the margins of the 4th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The meeting focused on implementation of the Action Plan and promotion of the Alliance's goal at the International Conference.

WHO/IPCS, in partnership with UNEP, is monitoring progress in eliminating lead paint through a survey of Member States. A report on the status of legally-binding controls on lead in paint was submitted as an Information Document to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM4) (SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/25). This showed that only 59 countries had confirmed that they had legally-binding controls on lead paint.



SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/25. Status of the phasing out of lead paint by countries: 2015 global report

http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/iccm/ICCM4/FINALmtgdoc/INFdoc/ICCM4_INF25_Lead_in_Paint_2015.pdf

The Lead Paint Alliance Advisory Group has developed a toolkit to assist countries in establishing and implementing legally binding controls on lead paint. The toolkit contains a wide range of information, including the health and environmental impacts of lead paint, methods for conducting market surveys of lead paint in a country, cases studies from countries that have successfully implemented control measures and methods for establishing lead paint laws. WHO/IPCS prepared five modules for the toolkit.



Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint

<http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadpaint/toolkit>

WHO/IPCS coordinated the third international lead poisoning prevention week, which took place this year from 25 to 31 October 2015. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness worldwide about lead poisoning and to encourage action to eliminate the use of lead in paint. WHO developed a website where organizations or individuals could register their events. This webpage also provided a range of campaign materials, including posters, web banners, flyers and FAQs, in all six UN languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Arabic).

Events and activities took place in 86 cities in 38 countries, ranging from art competitions, statements of support and public demonstrations to policy debates, public information campaigns and scientific conferences. These events were organized by non-governmental organizations, paint manufacturers, academic institutions and government ministries. Events took place in schools, universities, shopping centres, community centres and on the street. WHO/ IPCS provided financial support for events in seven countries. A short report of the 2014 lead-week was published in January 2015. A report about the 2015 lead-week activities is in preparation and will be published on the IPCS website in early 2016.

-  Fact Sheet on Lead Poisoning and Health (updated) – available in 6 languages
<http://www.who.int/entity/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/index.html>
-  Questions and answers about the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Campaign – available in 6 languages
http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/QandA_lead_week2015_EN.pdf?ua=1
-  Lead campaign website and materials
http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/index.html
http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/objectives/en/
-  International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2014: report
http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/report_2014.pdf?ua=1

5. CHEMICAL INCIDENTS AND EMERGENCIES

5.1 International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)

The IHR (2005) cover all events of potential international public health concern, including disease outbreaks of known, or suspected, chemical etiology. Countries are required to build national core capacities for surveillance of and response to such outbreaks, and can call upon the support of the WHO and the international community to manage the outbreaks.

A guidance document for policy makers was published on the application of the IHR to chemical events. This document provides information about the IHR (2005) core capacities relating the chemical events and describes the synergies between implementation of the IHR (2005) and international agreements for sound chemicals management.

-  International Health Regulations (2005) and chemical events
<http://www.who.int/ipcs/IHR2005andchemicalevents.pdf?ua=1>

5.2 Responding to Chemical Incidents and Emergencies

In 2015, 41 events were evaluated for their public health significance and the need for technical support by WHO/IPCS. This evaluation was carried out in conjunction with technical counterparts in the regional offices. Technical support was provided in 29 events, as described below.

- Nine mass poisoning events, of which three involved methanol. Members of the WHO/IPCS poisons centre network provided technical input into the evaluation and/or response to the outbreaks. Information on the diagnosis and management of methanol poisoning was provided.

- Six outbreaks of unknown cause, one of which turned out to be caused by a fake medicine, one may have been due to nutritional deficiency, one may be related to a viral infection and three remain unknown. WHO/IPCS provided an assessment of the likelihood of a chemical cause and suggested possible lines of investigation.
- Seven deliberate poisonings or alleged deliberate chemical releases. WHO/IPCS assisted in obtaining antidotes for two poisonings involving thallium, and contributed to risk assessments and provided technical information on the other chemicals concerned.
- Five natural or technological events resulting in the release of chemicals into the environment. WHO /IPCS liaised with other agencies involved in response, particularly the Joint Environment Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, worked with regional office colleagues on the risk assessment of the events and provided technical information.
- Two miscellaneous events: one involved alerting IHR national focal points about the dangers of dinitrophenol readily available for purchase over the internet and the other was a risk assessment of contaminated hypodermic needles.

WHO/IPCS, together with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, participated in the Quicksilver exercise on 30 September to 1 October 2015. This was an EU-wide exercise involving multiple deliberate chemical events.

6. PROMOTING HEALTH IN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS

6.1 Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)

In 2015, WHO continued to work on strengthening the engagement of the health sector in implementation of SAICM in accordance with the health- sector priorities. A report on this work was prepared for the 4th meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, 28 September – 2 October, in Geneva.



Report by the World Health Organization on the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/3

http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/INF3_ICCM4_INF3_WHO_HealthSectorEngagement.pdf?ua=1

The above report contains information regarding WHO activities on SAICM emerging policy issues, including lead in paint, endocrine disrupting chemicals, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials, and e-waste.

WHO conducted an online survey to collect views of health sector stakeholders on health-sector priorities and activities related to the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals. The views were collected through an online questionnaire, open from 4 June to 17 July 2015, and in total 62 survey forms were completed by mostly governmental respondents from 51 countries. The results of the consultation, including the updated health sector priorities, were submitted to the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

The Conference has acknowledged the health sector priorities and attached them to the meeting report.



Priorities of the health sector towards achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management - Results of WHO consultation. SAICM/ICCM.4/INF/11
http://www.who.int/ipcs/consultation_health_sector_priorities.pdf?ua=1

The above report describes the results of the survey, including the updated health sector priorities in section V, and their implications for the implementation of SAICM and for the overall orientation of and guidance to Strategic Approach stakeholders, for the period 2015–2020.

WHO's work on the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is addressed in the Section on Poisons Prevention, Information and Management.

WHO worked in collaboration with FAO and UNEP to develop a proposed strategy to address highly hazardous pesticides for consideration at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. The strategy was welcomed by the Conference, and WHO and other IOMC organizations were invited to assist with coordination of the implementation of the strategy by SAICM stakeholders.

6.2 Minamata Convention on Mercury

Work continued on implementation of World Health Assembly Resolution WHA67.11 *Public health impacts of exposure to mercury and mercury compounds: the role of WHO and ministries of public health in the implementation of the Minamata Convention*.

WHO Regional Offices convened, with Headquarters support, the following workshops:

- In June 2015 a WHO Europe Regional Workshop on health sector involvement in the implementation of the Minamata Convention took place in Bonn, Germany, with the participation of representatives from ministries of health of Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkmenistan and Ukraine, as well as civil society, academia, UNEP and WHO.
- In October 2015 a workshop for Spanish speaking Latin American countries was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, with the participation of representatives of the Ministers of Health of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as civil society, academia and PAHO/WHO.

Key publications:



Annotated Bibliography of Key Information from the World Health Organization relevant to the Minamata Convention on Mercury
http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/Bibliography_of_KeyInformation_from_WHO_relevant_MinamataConvention.pdf?ua=1



Guidance on “Developing national strategies for phasing-out mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care, including in the context of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/assessment/public_health/WHOGuidanceReportonMercury2015.pdf?ua=1

WHO is a member of the IOMC Mercury Group, which coordinates the work of the IOMC organizations relevant to implementation of the Minamata Convention. This includes activities on Minamata Initial Assessments and National Action Plans for Artisanal and Small-Scale Gold Mining.

6.3 Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention

The Conferences of the Parties to Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions met in May 2015. Contributions of WHO to the implementation of the Convention related primarily to asbestos and DDT (see earlier sections of this report. WHO Headquarters provided briefing and related support to Regional Offices which participated in regional preparatory meetings in the lead-up to the Conferences of the Parties.

6.4 Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

The IOMC coordinates the chemicals policies and programmes of its nine Participating Organizations (FAO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNITAR, WB, WHO and OECD). WHO is the administering agency for the IOMC and provides its Secretariat, as well as participating as a member of the IOMC. In 2015, two regular meetings of the IOMC were held 15-16 April, May, hosted by UNITAR in Geneva and 4-5 November, hosted by OECD in Paris. Refer to: <http://www.iomc.info> for information about IOMC activities.

In 2015, work continued to implement the EC funded IOMC project entitled IOMC Toolbox for decision making in chemicals management – Phase II: Modification, Expansion and Promotion. The IOMC Toolbox is available on the IOMC web page at <http://www.who.int/iomc/en/>. The overall objective of the 36 months project which commenced on 1 November 2013 is to support implementation of SAICM by promoting the identification and implementation of guidance materials for chemicals management by IOMC Participating Organizations, especially in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

The IOMC Toolbox project is managed by WHO. Face-to-face meetings of the Toolbox Project Management Group took place in April and November. In addition, a range of technical activities were implemented by WHO.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS DURING 2015

International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs): 30 new and updated cards have been published in 2015. These are listed in the table below.

Chrysotile asbestos – summary (2014)

- published in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Thai, Vietnamese

http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/asbestos/en/

Environmental Health Criteria Document – Dermal Exposure

http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/ehc/ehc_242.pdf

International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week 2014: report

http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/report_2014.pdf?ua=1

WHO Fact Sheet on Lead Poisoning and Health (updated)

<http://www.who.int/entity/mediacentre/factsheets/fs379/en/index.html>

Questions and answers about the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Awareness Campaign – available in 6 languages.

http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/QandA_lead_week2015_EN.pdf?ua=1

Lead campaign website and materials

http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/lead_campaign/en/index.html

http://www.who.int/ipcs/lead_campaign/objectives/en/

Toolkit for Establishing Laws to Control the Use of Lead in Paint: modules on:

- Lead paint and the problem
- Health hazards of lead
- Analytical methods for measuring lead in blood
- Analytical methods for measuring lead in paint
- Conducting lead awareness-raising campaigns

<http://web.unep.org/chemicalsandwaste/noleadinpaint/toolkit>

Status of the phasing out of lead paint by countries: 2015 global report

http://www.saicm.org/images/saicm_documents/iccm/ICCM4/FINALmtgdoc/INFdoc/ICCM4_INF25_Lead_in_Paint_2015.pdf

Improving the availability of poisons centre services in Eastern Africa

http://www.who.int/ipcs/poisons/centre/study_afro/en/

International Health Regulations (2005) and chemical events

<http://www.who.int/ipcs/IHR2005andchemicalevents.pdf?ua=1>

Report by the World Health Organization on the engagement of the health sector in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

http://www.who.int/ipcs/saicm/INF3_ICCM4_INF3_WHO_HealthSectorEngagement.pdf?ua=1

Priorities of the health sector towards achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management - Results of WHO consultation.

http://www.who.int/ipcs/consultation_health_sector_priorities.pdf?ua=1

Annotated Bibliography of Key Information from the World Health Organization relevant to the Minamata Convention on Mercury

http://www.who.int/ipcs/assessment/public_health/Bibliography_of_KeyInformation_from_WHO_relevant_MinamataConvention.pdf?ua=1

Guidance on “Developing national strategies for phasing-out mercury-containing thermometers and sphygmomanometers in health care, including in the context of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

http://www.who.int/entity/ipcs/assessment/public_health/WHOGuidanceReportonMercury2015.pdf?ua=1

List of International Chemical Safety Cards published in 2015

ICSC No.	New/Update	Chemical	CAS
43	update	Epichlorohydrin	106-89-8
67	update	Nitrous oxide	10024-97-2
155	update	Ethylene oxide	75-21-8
186	update	Nitroglycerin	55-63-0
235	update	Chloroacetic acid	79-11-8
362	update	Sulfuric acid	7664-93-9
411	update	Catechol	120-80-9
416	update	1-Chloro-2,4-dinitrobenzene	97-00-7
419	update	Methyl chloride	74-87-3
441	update	1,2-Dichloropropane	78-87-5
464	update	2,4-Dinitrophenol	51-28-5
540	update	Phenylmercuric acetate	62-38-4
541	update	Phenylmercuric nitrate	55-68-5
657	update	n-Heptane	142-82-5
667	update	Naphthalene	91-20-3
798	update	Isoamyl alcohol	123-51-3
890	update	2-Ethylhexanol	104-76-7
902	update	Isobutyraldehyde	78-84-2
904	update	Isoprene	78-79-5
905	update	Isopropanolamine	78-96-6
908	update	Isopropylamine	75-31-0
1031	update	Peracetic acid (stabilized)	79-21-0
1178	update	Trisodium phosphate (anhydrous)	7601-54-9
1282	update	Tributyltin oxide	56-35-9
1311	update	Nitric oxide	10102-43-9
1449	update	Sodium chloroacetate	3926-62-3
1586	update	Dimethyl disulfide	624-92-0
1768	new	Terbufos	13071-79-9
1772	new	5-Ethyl-2-methylpyridine	104-90-5
1774	new	Bunker fuel	-

Selected Presentations

WHO activities for preparedness and response to chemical weapon use in Syria
15th Medical Chemical Defence Conference, April 22 -23, 2015, Munich, Germany

The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides – Criteria for Highly Hazardous Pesticides – Joint Meeting on Pesticide Management
2015 Science Fair, Conference of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, 8 May 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

Why lead paint is a problem and
International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action (October 2015)

Building Momentum Toward Global Lead Paint Elimination by 2020: side event at the 4th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, 29 September 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

Case study: Environmental Remediation of Lead Battery Recycling Waste in Thiaroye sur Mer, Dakar, Senegal

Lead Battery Recycling: Hazards and Opportunities for Improvement: side event at the 4th session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, 2 October 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

MEETINGS HELD IN 2015

8-9 April 2015

Scoping meeting for an Environmental Health Criteria Document on Principles and Methods for assessing the risk of immunotoxicity associated with exposure to nanomaterials.

Bilthoven, The Netherlands

15-16 April 2015

43rd IOMC Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland

16-17 April 2015

IOMC Toolbox Project Management Group Meeting

Geneva, Switzerland

22-26 June 2015

Peer-review meeting for International Chemical Safety Cards

Nancy, France

27 September 2015

Advisory Group for the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

Geneva, Switzerland

3 November 2015

IOMC Toolbox Meeting

Paris, France

4-5 November 2015

44th IOMC Meeting and QSP TFIC meeting

Paris, France

2-4 December 2015

WHO Chemical Risk Assessment Sub-Network of Developing Countries

Bangkok, Thailand

7-9 December 2015

Guideline Development Group Meeting: Guidelines for the management of lead poisoning

Geneva, Switzerland