ACGIH®

Inside the Organization

James H. Price, CIH
ACGIH®, Director of Science
Technical Committees

Committees provide the creativity, initiative, and technical expertise that has made ACGIH® what it is today and what it will be tomorrow.
ACGIH® Committees

- Committees consist of members, who volunteer time toward developing scientific guidelines and publications
  - Primary goal is to serve the scientific needs of occupational hygienists
  - Committee expenses (travel) are supported by ACGIH®
  - Time is donated by the members
ACGIH® Statement of Position
adopted by the ACGIH® Board of Directors on March 1, 2002

ACGIH® is not a standards setting body.

TLVs® and BEIs® —

• Are an expression of scientific opinion.
• Are not consensus standards.
• Are based solely on health factors; it may not be economically or technically feasible to meet established TLVs® or BEIs®.
ACGIH® Statement of Position

TLVs® and BEIs® —

• Should NOT be adopted as standards without an analysis of other factors necessary to make appropriate risk management decisions.

• Can provide valuable input into the risk characterization process. The full written Documentation for the numerical TLV® or BEI® should be reviewed.
Policies and Processes for Limiting Conflict of Interest
Conflict of Interest

• Committee members serve as individuals
  • they do not represent organizations and/or interest groups
• Members are selected based on expertise, soundness of judgment, and ability to contribute
Conflict of Interest

• Annual discussion of conflict of interest in full committee
• Annual declaration by each member
  • Professional employment background
  • Current professional activities
  • Consulting
  • Research funding
  • Financial holdings
Conflict of Interest

• It is each Member’s responsibility to ensure they have considered and addressed any conflicts.

• Failure to report conflict of interest can result in immediate termination of membership on the Committee.
Example Committee

Chemical Substances TLV® Committee
Chemical Substance Subcommittees

- Membership from academia, government, unions, industry
- Membership represents four key disciplines:
  - Industrial Hygiene
  - Toxicology
  - Occupational Medicine
  - Occupational Epidemiology
TLV® Development Process

- Under Study List
- Committee Review & Revision
- Committee & Board Approval
- Draft Doc.
- Committee Review & Revision
- NIC
- Committee & Board Approval
- Adopted Value

External Input
Committee Selects Substance/Agent for TLV®/BEI® Review

1. Under Study
   - External Input
   - Committee

2. Draft Documentation
   - Not available to public
   - Committee
   - Board of Directors

3. Notice of Intended Changes (NIC)
   - Draft TLV®/BEI® & Documentation available to public
   - Committee
   - Board of Directors

4. TLV®/BEI® & Documentation Adopted
   - Published in yearly Supplement
   - Committee
   - Board of Directors

Withdrawal from Consideration
Basis of TLVs® / BEIs®

Scientific Literature

- Published / Peer Reviewed Science (Principal Source)
- Review Articles (Secondary)
- Unpublished Science (Secondary)
  - Before Use: Owner must provide ACGIH® permission to use and cite the report, and release the report to a third party
  - Consideration of TLVs® are not deferred pending completion of on-going or planned research
- Not a review of all available literature
  - Emphasis on peer-reviewed literature
  - Emphasis on literature pertinent to the issue
External Committee Communications

How Stakeholders can Participate

- **Send written comments and input to ACGIH® (Principal Method):**
  - Provide sufficient detail and explanation
  - Support with published, peer-reviewed science
- **Can request to make presentation (by Exception only)**
  - Submit request to ACGIH®
  - Must demonstrate:
    - Information is significantly new and different
    - Information has received appropriate scientific peer review
- **Send to Science Group at science@acgih.org**
TLVs® Defined

• TLV® — more than just “THE NUMBER”

• Documentation describes:
  • Critical health effects
  • Quality of the data relied upon and areas of uncertainty
  • Possible sensitive subgroups
  • Type of TLV® (TWA, STEL, C) and reason for selection
  • Notations
Warnings

- NOT to be used as an index of relative toxicity
- NOT for estimating toxic potential of continuous, uninterrupted exposures or other extended work periods
- NOT as proof/disproof of existing disease
- NOT to evaluate or control air pollution
- NOT legal standards
How/When Interested Parties Can Most Effectively Provide Input to the TLV® / BEI® Development Process

• Under Study stage
• NIC Stage
• Submit published, peer-reviewed science
• Unpublished works: Write an article and get it published
• Relevant unpublished studies: Submit to ACGIH® with permission to use, cite and release study
Information Sources on TLV®/BEI® Recommendations Ratified by ACGIH® Board

For Adopted and Notice of Intended Changes (NIC) Recommendations:

- ACGIH® Annual Report (January/February)*
- ACGIH® Website (January/February)*
- TLV® / BEI® Book (Spring)*

* Also identifies substances and agents Under Study
Online ACGIH® TLV® / BEI®
Resources
www.acgih.org

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- TLV® / BEI® Policy Statement
- TLV® / BEI® Position Statement
- TLV® / BEI® Development Process
- Under Study List
- Notice of Intended Changes (NIC) List
- BEI®/TLV® - CS Committee Operations Manual
- ACGIH® Annual Presentation at AIHce
Questions / Discussion