

CONTENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CRITERIA FOR POLYBROMINATED DIBENZO-*p*-DIOXINS AND DIBENZOFURANS

PREAMBLE	x
ABBREVIATIONS	xix
1. SUMMARY	1
1.1 Identity, physical and chemical properties, and analytical methods	1
1.2 Formation and sources of human and environmental exposure	2
1.3 Environmental transport, distribution, and transformation	7
1.4 Environmental levels and human exposure	8
1.5 Kinetics and metabolism	11
1.6 Effects on laboratory mammals and <i>in vitro</i> test systems	13
1.7 Effects on humans	17
1.8 Effects on other organisms in the laboratory and field	17
2. IDENTITY, PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES, AND ANALYTICAL METHODS	18
2.1 Identity	18
2.2 Physical and chemical properties	20
2.2.1 Appearance, melting and boiling points, water solubility, vapour pressure, octanol/water partition coefficient, and sorption coefficient	20
2.2.2 Stability of PBDDs/PBDFs	23
2.2.2.1 Photolysis	23
2.2.2.2 Thermolytic degradation of PBDDs/PBDFs	23
2.2.3 Chemical reactions	27

2.3	Conversion factors	28
2.4	Analytical methods	28
2.4.1	General aspects	28
2.4.2	Sampling and extraction	29
2.4.2.1	Ambient air, airborne dust, automobile exhaust, flue gas, and products of thermolysis	30
2.4.2.2	Water and aqueous samples	31
2.4.2.3	Environmental samples: soil, sediment, and sewage sludge	31
2.4.2.4	Flame retardants, polymers, fly ash samples, dust, soot, and fire residues	32
2.4.2.5	Biological matrices: human milk, blood/plasma, tissues, and fish samples	33
2.4.3	Sample clean-up	33
2.4.4	Separation	34
2.4.5	Detection, quantification, and confirmation of PBDDs/PBDFs by MS techniques	37
2.4.6	The need for analysis of 2,3,7,8-substituted congeners	39
2.4.7	Interfering substances	39
2.4.8	Standards	39
3.	FORMATION AND SOURCES OF HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE	41
3.1	Synthesis and use	41
3.2	By-products of brominated organic chemicals (including flame retardants)	41
3.3	Formation from the photochemical degradation of brominated organic chemicals	49
3.4	Formation from the laboratory thermolysis of bromine-containing flame retardants	50
3.5	Formation during production of plastic materials and presence in consumer products containing flame retardants	69
3.5.1	Formation during production processes	69
3.5.2	Presence in resins and polymer products	72

3.6	Emissions from flame-retarded consumer products	81
3.7	Presence in fire residues, smoke condensates, and gases after fires	83
3.7.1	Experimental fires	83
3.7.2	Accidental fires	86
3.8	Formation from incineration of fuels	93
3.9	Formation during waste disposal and treatment	93
3.9.1	Incineration	93
3.9.2	Disposal	99
3.9.3	Recycling	102
	3.9.3.1 Plastics	102
	3.9.3.2 Metals	103
3.10	Presence in automotive exhaust	103
3.11	Formation during textile processing	107
4.	ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSPORT, DISTRIBUTION, AND TRANSFORMATION	108
4.1	Transport and distribution between media	108
4.1.1	Air	108
4.1.2	Water and sediments	108
4.1.3	Soil	109
4.1.4	Biota	109
4.2	Environmental transformation	110
4.2.1	Photochemical degradation	110
4.2.2	Microbial degradation	113
4.3	Bioaccumulation and biomagnification	114
5.	ENVIRONMENTAL LEVELS AND HUMAN EXPOSURE	115
5.1	Environmental levels	115
5.1.1	Air	115
	5.1.1.1 Ambient air	115
	5.1.1.2 Indoor air	129
5.1.2	Water and sediment	133
5.1.3	Soil, sewage sludge, and biocompost	134
5.1.4	Food and feed	136
5.1.5	Other products	137
5.1.6	Terrestrial and aquatic organisms	137

5.1.6.1	Plants	137
5.1.6.2	Animals	137
5.2	General population exposure	139
5.2.1	Exposure data	139
5.2.2	Monitoring of human tissues and fluids	139
5.3	Occupational exposure	141
5.3.1	Workplace monitoring data	141
5.3.1.1	Flame retardant/polymer industry	141
5.3.1.2	Offices/studios	147
5.3.1.3	Recycling plants	148
5.3.1.4	Other workplaces	149
5.3.2	Monitoring of human tissues and fluids	149
6.	KINETICS AND METABOLISM	152
6.1	Absorption	152
6.1.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	152
6.1.2	Dibenzofurans	154
6.2	Distribution	154
6.2.1	Levels in organs and blood	154
6.2.1.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	154
6.2.1.2	Dibenzofurans	159
6.2.2	Transfer to offspring	160
6.3	Metabolic transformation	160
6.3.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	160
6.3.2	Dibenzofurans	161
6.4	Elimination and excretion	161
6.4.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	163
6.4.2	Dibenzofurans	167
6.5	Retention and turnover	167
6.5.1	Animal studies	167
6.5.2	Human studies	174
7.	EFFECTS ON LABORATORY MAMMALS AND <i>IN VITRO</i> TEST SYSTEMS	175
7.1	Single exposure	175
7.1.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	175
7.1.2	Dibenzofurans	179

7.1.3	Remarks on the lethality of PBDDs/PBDFs	179
7.2	Short-term exposure	180
7.2.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	180
7.2.2	Dibenzofurans	182
7.3	Long-term exposure	183
7.4	Skin and eye irritation, sensitization, dermal lesions, and acne	183
7.5	Reproductive and developmental toxicity	184
7.5.1	Reproductive toxicity	184
7.5.2	Developmental toxicity	184
7.6	Mutagenicity and related end-points	189
7.7	Carcinogenicity	190
7.7.1	Short-term studies	190
7.7.2	Long-term studies	190
7.8	Other special studies	190
7.8.1	Immunotoxicity	190
7.8.1.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	191
7.8.1.2	Dibenzofurans	192
7.8.2	Effects on intermediary metabolism: Porphyrin effects	193
7.8.3	Effects on vitamin A storage	194
7.8.4	Endocrine interactions	194
7.8.5	Interaction with drugs and toxicants	195
7.8.6	Induction of microsomal enzymes	195
7.8.6.1	Dibenzo- <i>p</i> -dioxins	196
7.8.6.2	Dibenzofurans	198
7.8.6.3	Combustion products	200
7.9	Mechanisms of toxicity — mode of action	200
7.10	Experimental data on selected PBDDs/PBDFs and their relevance to the toxicity equivalency factor (TEF) concept	202
8.	EFFECTS ON HUMANS	209
8.1	General population exposure	209
8.2	Occupational/accidental exposure	209
8.3	Subpopulations at special risk	211

9.	EFFECTS ON OTHER ORGANISMS IN THE LABORATORY AND FIELD	212
10.	EVALUATION OF HUMAN HEALTH RISKS AND EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT	215
10.1	Hazard evaluation	215
10.2	Exposure evaluation	217
10.3	Risk evaluation	221
11.	CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT	223
11.1	Conclusions	223
11.2	Recommendations	223
12.	FURTHER RESEARCH	225
13.	PREVIOUS EVALUATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES	226
	REFERENCES	227
	APPENDICES	262
	RÉSUMÉ	266
	RESUMEN	285