



Gavin Newsom, Governor
Yana Garcia, Secretary for Environmental Protection
Kristina Thayer, Ph.D., Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Yana Garcia
Secretary for Environmental Protection
California Environmental Protection Agency

FROM: Kristina Thayer, Ph.D. *Kristina Thayer*
Director [Kristina Thayer \(Jul 18, 2025 09:27 PDT\)](#)
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

DATE: July 18, 2025

SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF REFERENCE EXPOSURE LEVELS (RELS) FOR 1,4-DICHLOROBENZENE

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has adopted Reference Exposure Levels (RELs) for 1,4-Dichlorobenzene (1,4-DCB) for use in the Air Toxics Hot Spots (Hot Spots) program, effective July 18, 2025.

1,4-DCB is used in the manufacturing of thermoplastics, in some consumer products including degreasers, fuel additives, and as the pesticidal ingredient in mothballs. It is emitted from facilities across the state, including sawmill/lumber producers, wastewater management and treatment facilities, biomass power plants, and landfills.

A draft document describing the scientific basis for the 1,4-DCB RELs was released on November 29, 2024 to solicit public comments. During the ensuing 45-day public comment period, two public workshops were held (Sacramento and Los Angeles). No public comments were received. The State's Scientific Review Panel (SRP) on Toxic Air Contaminants peer-reviewed the document in February 2025. The document was revised in response to SRP comments and reviewed by the SRP chair before finalization.

The REL values for 1,4-DCB are as follows:

Acute REL (for infrequent 1-hour exposures): 8,700 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) ((1,500 parts per billion (ppb))

Chronic REL (for long-term exposures): 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (0.8 ppb)

8-Hour REL (for repeated 8-hour exposures): 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (1.7 ppb)

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The 1,4-DCB REL values will be provided to the California Air Resources Board for incorporation into the Hotspots Analysis and Reporting Program (HARP) software suite. HARP software is used to generate Hot Spots facility health risk assessments.

The final document that describes the scientific basis for these RELs is attached and will be made available on the OEHHA Web site on July 18.

Attachments

cc: Scott Lichtig
Deputy Secretary for Environmental Policy
California Environmental Protection Agency

Richard Boyd, Division Chief
Transportation and Toxics Division
California Air Resources Board

Matthew O'Donnell, Chief
Risk Reduction Branch
California Air Resources Board

Meng Sun, Chief
Air and Site Assessment and Climate Indicators Branch
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment