

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH HAZARD ASSESSMENT
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

AIR TOXICS HOT SPOTS PROGRAM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND WORKSHOPS ON DRAFT REVISED
CANCER INHALATION UNIT RISK FACTORS FOR COBALT SULFATE
HEPTAHYDRATE AND WATER-SOLUBLE COBALT COMPOUNDS

May 5, 2023

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is releasing a draft document for public review that corrects the cancer inhalation unit risk factors (IURs) for cobalt sulfate heptahydrate and water-soluble cobalt compounds. OEHHA adopted IURs for these compounds in October 2020¹ following public comment and review by the Scientific Review Panel on Air Toxic Contaminants. The draft revised document identifies two revisions in the derivation methodology:

- 1) a correction and update to the conversion factor used to normalize to the concentration of cobalt in cobalt sulfate heptahydrate (the substance in the bioassay used to derive IURs for water soluble cobalt compounds); and
- 2) a correction of an error in the final derivation of the previous IUR value.

The cancer IURs are used to estimate lifetime cancer risks associated with inhalation exposure to a carcinogen. While the IURs for cobalt sulfate heptahydrate and water-soluble cobalt compounds have been corrected, the IURs for cobalt metal and insoluble cobalt compounds were not affected by the errors and have not changed.

OEHHA is required to develop guidelines for conducting health risk assessments under the Air Toxics Hot Spots Program. (Health and Safety Code Section 44360(b)(2).) In response to this requirement, OEHHA develops unit risk factors for carcinogens, such as cobalt sulfate heptahydrate. The draft revised document containing the corrected cancer IURs for cobalt sulfate heptahydrate and water-soluble cobalt compounds is being made available today on the OEHHA website. Changes to the document are indicated in underline (additions) and strikeout (deletions). **OEHHA will only consider comments which pertain to the corrected text and numbers, as indicated in strikeout and underline, and the accompanying document explaining the changes (OEHHA, 2023)².**

¹ OEHHA (2020). Cobalt and Cobalt Compounds Cancer Inhalation Unit Risk Factors. Technical Support Document for Cancer Potency Factors, Appendix B, October 2020. Available at: <https://oehha.ca.gov/media/downloads/cnr/cobaltcpf100220.pdf>

² OEHHA (2023). Corrections to the Cancer Inhalation Unit Risk Factors for Cobalt Sulfate Heptahydrate and Water-Soluble Cobalt Compounds and to the Technical Support Document

The posting of the document will commence a 30-day public review period that will end on June 5, 2023.

Public workshops will be held in Southern and Northern California at the following locations and times.

Southern California

May 23, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Room CC-2
South Coast Air Quality Management
District
21865 E. Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Northern California

May 31, 2023
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Sierra Hearing Room
Cal EPA Building
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

After the close of the public comment period, the document will be revised as appropriate by OEHHA, and corrected text and numbers will be peer reviewed by the state's Scientific Review Panel on Toxic Air Contaminants (<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/scientific-review-panel-toxic-air-contaminants>).

The public is encouraged to submit written information via OEHHA's website, rather than in paper form. Comments may be submitted electronically through the following link: <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>.

Hard-copy comments may be mailed, faxed, or hand-delivered to the address below:

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Information about dates and agendas for meetings of the Scientific Review Panel can be obtained from the California Air Resources Board website at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/srp/srp.htm>.