

**TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR
METHOXYCHLOR**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Public Health Service
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry**

September 2002

DISCLAIMER

The use of company or product name(s) is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

UPDATE STATEMENT

Toxicological profiles are revised and republished as necessary, but no less than once every three years. For information regarding the update status of previously released profiles, contact ATSDR at:

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Division of Toxicology/Toxicology Information Branch
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FOREWORD

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines* developed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The original guidelines were published in the *Federal Register* on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary.

The ATSDR toxicological profile succinctly characterizes the toxicologic and adverse health effects information for the hazardous substance described therein. Each peer-reviewed profile identifies and reviews the key literature that describes a hazardous substance's toxicologic properties. Other pertinent literature is also presented, but is described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

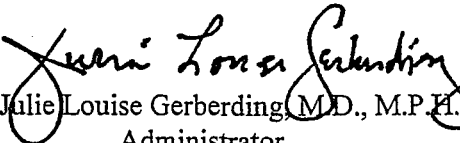
The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicologic information; therefore, each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement that describes, in nontechnical language, a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the public health statement is information concerning levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health are identified by ATSDR and EPA.

Each profile includes the following:

- (A) The examination, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic information and epidemiologic evaluations on a hazardous substance to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects;
- (B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure that present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, and chronic health effects; and
- (C) Where appropriate, identification of toxicologic testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the federal, state, and local levels; interested private sector organizations and groups; and members of the public.

This profile reflects ATSDR's assessment of all relevant toxicologic testing and information that has been peer-reviewed. Staff of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal scientists have also reviewed the profile. In addition, this profile has been peer-reviewed by a nongovernmental panel and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.


Julie Louise Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H.
Administrator
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*Legislative Background

The toxicological profiles are developed in response to the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (Public law 99-499) which amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law directed ATSDR to prepared toxicological profiles for hazardous substances most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and that pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the EPA. The availability of the revised priority list of 275 hazardous substances was announced in the *Federal Register* on November 17, 1997 (62 FR 61332). For prior versions of the list of substances, see *Federal Register* notices dated April 29, 1996 (61 FR 18744); April 17, 1987 (52 FR 12866); October 20, 1988 (53 FR 41280); October 26, 1989 (54 FR 43619); October 17, 1990 (55 FR 42067); October 17, 1991 (56 FR 52166); October 28, 1992 (57 FR 48801); and February 28, 1994 (59 FR 9486). Section 104(i)(3) of CERCLA, as amended, directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

Toxicological Profiles are a unique compilation of toxicological information on a given hazardous substance. Each profile reflects a comprehensive and extensive evaluation, summary, and interpretation of available toxicologic and epidemiologic information on a substance. Health care providers treating patients potentially exposed to hazardous substances will find the following information helpful for fast answers to often-asked questions.

Primary Chapters/Sections of Interest

Chapter 1: Public Health Statement: The Public Health Statement can be a useful tool for educating patients about possible exposure to a hazardous substance. It explains a substance's relevant toxicologic properties in a nontechnical, question-and-answer format, and it includes a review of the general health effects observed following exposure.

Chapter 2: Relevance to Public Health: The Relevance to Public Health Section evaluates, interprets, and assesses the significance of toxicity data to human health.

Chapter 3: Health Effects: Specific health effects of a given hazardous compound are reported by *type of health effect* (death, systemic, immunologic, reproductive), by *route of exposure*, and by *length of exposure* (acute, intermediate, and chronic). In addition, both human and animal studies are reported in this section.

NOTE: Not all health effects reported in this section are necessarily observed in the clinical setting. Please refer to the Public Health Statement to identify general health effects observed following exposure.

Pediatrics: Four new sections have been added to each Toxicological Profile to address child health issues:

- Section 1.6** **How Can Methoxychlor Affect Children?**
- Section 1.7** **How Can Families Reduce the Risk of Exposure to Methoxychlor?**
- Section 3.7** **Children's Susceptibility**
- Section 6.6** **Exposures of Children**

Other Sections of Interest:

- Section 3.8** **Biomarkers of Exposure and Effect**
 - Section 3.11** **Methods for Reducing Toxic Effects**
-

ATSDR Information Center

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E-mail: atsdric@cdc.gov **Internet:** <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

The following additional material can be ordered through the ATSDR Information Center:

Case Studies in Environmental Medicine: Taking an Exposure History—The importance of taking an exposure history and how to conduct one are described, and an example of a thorough exposure history is provided. Other case studies of interest include *Reproductive and Developmental Hazards*; *Skin Lesions and Environmental Exposures*; *Cholinesterase-Inhibiting Pesticide Toxicity*; and numerous chemical-specific case studies.

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents is a three-volume set of recommendations for on-scene (prehospital) and hospital medical management of patients exposed during a hazardous materials incident. Volumes I and II are planning guides to assist first responders and hospital emergency department personnel in planning for incidents that involve hazardous materials. Volume III—*Medical Management Guidelines for Acute Chemical Exposures*—is a guide for health care professionals treating patients exposed to hazardous materials.

Fact Sheets (ToxFAQs) provide answers to frequently asked questions about toxic substances.

Other Agencies and Organizations

The National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) focuses on preventing or controlling disease, injury, and disability related to the interactions between people and their environment outside the workplace. *Contact:* NCEH, Mailstop F-29, 4770 Buford Highway, NE, Atlanta, GA 30341-3724 • Phone: 770-488-7000 • FAX: 770-488-7015.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) conducts research on occupational diseases and injuries, responds to requests for assistance by investigating problems of health and safety in the workplace, recommends standards to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA), and trains professionals in occupational safety and health. *Contact:* NIOSH, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201 • Phone: 800-356-4674 or NIOSH Technical Information Branch, Robert A. Taft Laboratory, Mailstop C-19, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226-1998 • Phone: 800-35-NIOSH.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is the principal federal agency for biomedical research on the effects of chemical, physical, and biologic environmental agents on human health and well-being. *Contact:* NIEHS, PO Box 12233, 104 T.W. Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 • Phone: 919-541-3212.

Referrals

The Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) has developed a network of clinics in the United States to provide expertise in occupational and environmental issues. *Contact:* AOEC, 1010 Vermont Avenue, NW, #513, Washington, DC 20005 • Phone: 202-347-4976 • FAX: 202-347-4950 • e-mail: AOEC@AOEC.ORG • Web Page: <http://www.aoec.org/>.

The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) is an association of physicians and other health care providers specializing in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. *Contact:* ACOEM, 55 West Seegers Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 • Phone: 847-818-1800 • FAX: 847-818-9266.

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THE PROFILE HAS UNDERGONE THE FOLLOWING ATSDR INTERNAL REVIEWS:

1. Health Effects Review. The Health Effects Review Committee examines the health effects chapter of each profile for consistency and accuracy in interpreting health effects and classifying end points.
2. Minimal Risk Level Review. The Minimal Risk Level Workgroup considers issues relevant to substance-specific minimal risk levels (MRLs), reviews the health effects database of each profile, and makes recommendations for derivation of MRLs.
3. Data Needs Review. The Research Implementation Branch reviews data needs sections to assure consistency across profiles and adherence to instructions in the Guidance.

PEER REVIEW

A peer review panel was assembled for methoxychlor. The panel consisted of the following members:

1. Dr. Martin Alexander, Professor, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.
2. Dr. Neena Schwartz, Professor, Department of Neurobiology and Physiology, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.
3. Dr. William Toscano, Professor and Division Head, Environmental and Occupational Health, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

These experts collectively have knowledge of methoxychlor's physical and chemical properties, toxicokinetics, key health end points, mechanisms of action, human and animal exposure, and quantification of risk to humans. All reviewers were selected in conformity with the conditions for peer review specified in Section 104(I)(13) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended.

Scientists from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) have reviewed the peer reviewers' comments and determined which comments will be included in the profile. A listing of the peer reviewers' comments not incorporated in the profile, with a brief explanation of the rationale for their exclusion, exists as part of the administrative record for this compound. A list of databases reviewed and a list of unpublished documents cited are also included in the administrative record.

The citation of the peer review panel should not be understood to imply its approval of the profile's final content. The responsibility for the content of this profile lies with the ATSDR.

CONTENTS

FOREWORD	v
QUICK REFERENCE FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS	vii
CONTRIBUTORS	ix
PEER REVIEW	xi
LIST OF FIGURES	xvii
LIST OF TABLES	xix
1. PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT	1
1.1 WHAT IS METHOXYCHLOR?	1
1.2 WHAT HAPPENS TO METHOXYCHLOR WHEN IT ENTERS THE ENVIRONMENT? ..	2
1.3 HOW MIGHT I BE EXPOSED TO METHOXYCHLOR?	3
1.4 HOW CAN METHOXYCHLOR ENTER AND LEAVE MY BODY?	5
1.5 HOW CAN METHOXYCHLOR AFFECT MY HEALTH?	5
1.6 HOW CAN METHOXYCHLOR AFFECT CHILDREN?	7
1.7 HOW CAN FAMILIES REDUCE THE RISK OF EXPOSURE TO METHOXYCHLOR? ..	8
1.8 IS THERE A MEDICAL TEST TO DETERMINE WHETHER I HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO METHOXYCHLOR?	9
1.9 WHAT RECOMMENDATIONS HAS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MADE TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH?	10
1.10 WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?	11
2. RELEVANCE TO PUBLIC HEALTH	12
2.1 BACKGROUND AND ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURES TO METHOXYCHLOR IN THE UNITED STATES	12
2.2 SUMMARY OF HEALTH EFFECTS	13
2.3 MINIMAL RISK LEVELS	15
3. HEALTH EFFECTS	19
3.1 INTRODUCTION	19
3.2 DISCUSSION OF HEALTH EFFECTS BY ROUTE OF EXPOSURE	20
3.2.1 Inhalation Exposure	21
3.2.1.1 Death	21
3.2.1.2 Systemic Effects	22
3.2.1.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	22
3.2.1.4 Neurological Effects	22
3.2.1.5 Reproductive Effects	23
3.2.1.6 Developmental Effects	23
3.2.1.7 Cancer	23
3.2.2 Oral Exposure	24
3.2.2.1 Death	24
3.2.2.2 Systemic Effects	24
3.2.2.3 Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	46

3.2.2.4	Neurological Effects	47
3.2.2.5	Reproductive Effects	49
3.2.2.6	Developmental Effects	57
3.2.2.7	Cancer	61
3.2.3	Dermal Exposure	62
3.2.3.1	Death	62
3.2.3.2	Systemic Effects	65
3.2.3.3	Immunological and Lymphoreticular Effects	65
3.2.3.4	Neurological Effects	65
3.2.3.5	Reproductive Effects	66
3.2.3.6	Developmental Effects	66
3.2.3.7	Cancer	66
3.3	GENOTOXICITY	67
3.4	TOXICOKINETICS	71
3.4.1	Absorption	72
3.4.1.1	Inhalation Exposure	72
3.4.1.2	Oral Exposure	72
3.4.1.3	Dermal Exposure	73
3.4.2	Distribution	73
3.4.2.1	Inhalation Exposure	74
3.4.2.2	Oral Exposure	74
3.4.2.3	Dermal Exposure	76
3.4.2.4	Other Routes of Exposure	76
3.4.3	Metabolism	77
3.4.4	Elimination and Excretion	85
3.4.4.1	Inhalation Exposure	86
3.4.4.2	Oral Exposure	86
3.4.4.3	Dermal Exposure	86
3.4.4.4	Other Routes of Exposure	87
3.4.5	Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK)/Pharmacodynamic (PD) Models	87
3.5	MECHANISMS OF ACTION	88
3.5.1	Pharmacokinetic Mechanisms	90
3.5.2	Mechanisms of Toxicity	91
3.5.3	Animal-to-Human Extrapolations	96
3.6	TOXICITIES MEDIATED THROUGH THE NEUROENDOCRINE AXIS	98
3.7	CHILDREN'S SUSCEPTIBILITY	104
3.8	BIOMARKERS OF EXPOSURE AND EFFECT	109
3.8.1	Biomarkers Used to Identify or Quantify Exposure to Methoxychlor	110
3.8.2	Biomarkers Used to Characterize Effects Caused by Methoxychlor	112
3.9	INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER CHEMICALS	113
3.10	POPULATIONS THAT ARE UNUSUALLY SUSCEPTIBLE	114
3.11	METHODS FOR REDUCING TOXIC EFFECTS	115
3.11.1	Reducing Peak Absorption Following Exposure	115
3.11.2	Reducing Body Burden	116
3.11.3	Interfering with the Mechanism of Action for Toxic Effects	116
3.12	ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	117
3.12.1	Existing Information on Health Effects of Methoxychlor	117
3.12.2	Identification of Data Needs	119
3.12.3	Ongoing Studies	137

4. CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL INFORMATION	139
4.1 CHEMICAL IDENTITY	139
4.2 PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES	141
5. PRODUCTION, IMPORT/EXPORT, USE, AND DISPOSAL	143
5.1 PRODUCTION	143
5.2 IMPORT/EXPORT	144
5.3 USE	144
5.4 DISPOSAL	146
6. POTENTIAL FOR HUMAN EXPOSURE	147
6.1 OVERVIEW	147
6.2 RELEASES TO THE ENVIRONMENT	149
6.2.1 Air	149
6.2.2 Water	151
6.2.3 Soil	151
6.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FATE	152
6.3.1 Transport and Partitioning	152
6.3.2 Transformation and Degradation	154
6.3.2.1 Air	155
6.3.2.2 Water	155
6.3.2.3 Sediment and Soil	156
6.3.2.4 Other Media	157
6.4 LEVELS MONITORED OR ESTIMATED IN THE ENVIRONMENT	158
6.4.1 Air	158
6.4.2 Water	158
6.4.3 Sediment and Soil	159
6.4.4 Other Environmental Media	160
6.5 GENERAL POPULATION AND OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	161
6.6 EXPOSURES OF CHILDREN	163
6.7 POPULATIONS WITH POTENTIALLY HIGH EXPOSURES	165
6.8 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	166
6.8.1 Identification of Data Needs	166
6.8.2 Ongoing Studies	172
7. ANALYTICAL METHODS	173
7.1 BIOLOGICAL MATERIALS	173
7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	174
7.3 ADEQUACY OF THE DATABASE	176
7.3.1 Identification of Data Needs	179
7.3.2 Ongoing Studies	181
8. REGULATIONS AND ADVISORIES	183
9. REFERENCES	191
10. GLOSSARY	238

APPENDICES

D. ATSDR MINIMAL RISK LEVELS AND WORKSHEETS A-1

E. USER’S GUIDE B-1

F. ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND SYMBOLS C-1

G. INDEX D-1

LIST OF FIGURES

3-1 Levels of Significant Exposure to Methoxychlor - Oral	38
3-2 Proposed Metabolic Pathways of Methoxychlor	79
3-3 Conceptual Representation of a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) Model for a Hypothetical Chemical Substance	89
3-4 Existing Information on Health Effects of Methoxychlor	118
6-1 Frequency of NPL Sites with Methoxychlor Contamination	148

LIST OF TABLES

3-1 Levels of Significant Exposure to Methoxychlor - Oral	26
3-2 Levels of Significant Exposure to Methoxychlor - Dermal	64
3-3 Genotoxicity of Methoxychlor <i>In Vivo</i>	68
3-4 Genotoxicity of Methoxychlor <i>In Vitro</i>	69
3-5 Ongoing Studies on the Health Effects of Methoxychlor	138
4-1 Chemical Identity of Methoxychlor	140
4-2 Physical and Chemical Properties of Methoxychlor	142
5-1 Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Methoxychlor	145
6-1 Releases to the Environment from Facilities that Produce, Process, or Use Methoxychlor	150
7-1 Analytical Methods for Determining Methoxychlor in Biological Samples	175
7-2 Analytical Methods for Determining Methoxychlor in Environmental Samples	177
8-1 Regulations and Guidelines Applicable to Methoxychlor	184