**Rapid Screening of substances under Canada’s Chemical Management Plan (CMP)**

The *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999) requires the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health to conduct screening assessments of substances that have met the categorization criteria set out in the Act to determine whether these substances present or may present a risk to the environment or human health. The Government of Canada has developed a rapid screening approach to conduct screening assessments under CEPA for substances that have a low likelihood of meeting the criteria set out in section 64 of CEPA 1999.

The rapid screening approach is beneficial for a number of reasons, and facilitates the further prioritization of substances for assessment by rapidly identifying those substances that may have a higher or lower potential for concern based on hazard or exposure considerations. The approach also helps focus resources on higher priority substances by rapidly identifying those that are not of concern. Substances identified for rapid screening under this approach are those listed on Canada’s Domestic Substances List (DSL) which were identified as priorities under Canada’s Chemical Management Plan (CMP). The information on the commercial activity of these substances in Canada has been obtained from a number of mandatory industry surveys conducted under section 71 of CEPA. Candidates for rapid screening were those substances which were reported at total quantities ≤ 1000 kg across the country. Both Environment Canada and Health Canada assessed the substances to determine potential ecological and human health concern(s), respectively. This poster describes the rapid screening approach specifically used by Health Canada to identify substances with a low potential for concern. However, the combined results of the rapid screening exercise(s) conducted by both Environment Canada and Health Canada are also discussed.

From a human health perspective, a key element of the characterization of potential risk is the determination of potential for exposure to the general population. Substances reported to be in commerce in Canada at ≤1000 kg/year were considered to have the potential to result in exposure to the general population if there was evidence of direct exposure (e.g., exposure from products or processed foods). Otherwise, with the aid of multimedia modelling scenarios, exposure to the general population was considered to be negligible and it could be concluded that the substance is unlikely to cause harm to human health at current levels of exposure.

Ultimately, the Government of Canada has been able identify, and thereby conduct, a screening assessment for over 1500 substances in the various rapid screening exercises undertaken thus far, and continues to identify opportunites for subsequent rapid screening intiatives.This approach has been demonstrated as a successful mechanism to efficiently deal with large numbers of substances in an efficent, timely, and scientifically defensible manner, while meeting the requirements under CEPA (1999) to conduct screening assessments for substances which met the categorization criteria set out in the Act.