

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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## INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

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March 17, 1994

TO: File for Sodium Fluoride (CAS# 7681-49-4)  
FROM: Michael Depa, Toxics Unit  
SUBJECT: Initial Threshold Screening Level

The initial threshold screening level (ITSL) for sodium fluoride (NaF) is  $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  based on an 8 hour averaging time.

The following references or databases were searched to identify data to determine the ITSL: IRIS, RTECS, ACGIH Threshold Limit Values, NIOSH Pocket Guide to Hazardous Chemicals, Environmental Protection Bureau Library, IARC Monographs, and NTP Management Status Report. Review of these sources found that EPA has not established an RfC or RfD for sodium fluoride. There is no data available which meets the minimum requirements for establishing an RfC or RfD. RTECS indicated there is no evidence of carcinogenicity. The ACGIH TLV and the NIOSH REL for fluorides are both  $2.5 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ . The ACGIH TLV Documentation (ACCIH, 1991) specifically listed sodium fluoride under "fluorides", therefore, it is deemed appropriate to use the TLV for "fluorides" to develop an ITSL for sodium fluoride.

ACGIH based the TLV on a human inhalation study done by Derryberry (1963) who found no bone changes in a group of workers exposed at a concentration of fluoride averaging  $2.65 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ , while such changes were detected in 17 workers with exposures averaging  $3.38 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ . In order to develop an ITSL the TLV for "fluorides" must be converted to one specific for sodium fluoride. This is done in the following way:

$$(\text{TLV: fluorides})/(\text{mol. wt. fluoride}) = (\text{TLV: NaF})/(\text{mol. wt. NaF})$$

or

$$\text{TLV: NaF} = [(\text{TLV: fluorides}) \times (\text{mol. wt. NaF})] / (\text{mol. wt. fluoride})$$

where, the TLV for fluorides is  $2.5 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ ,  
the molecular weight of fluoride is 19 g,  
the TLV for NaF is the unknown, and  
the molecular weight for NaF is 41.97 g.

Using this equation the TLV for sodium fluoride is  $5.5 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^3$ . Based on Rule 232(1) (e) the ITSL is determined as follows:

$$\text{ITSL} = \text{OEL divided by 100}$$

Where the occupational exposure level (OEL) is the lowest value of the NIOSH REL or the ACGIH TLV. The ITSL is calculated in the following manner:

$$\text{ITSL} = (5.5 \text{ mg/m}^3) / 100$$

$$\text{ITSL} = 0.055 \text{ mg/m}^3$$

$$\text{ITSL} = 60 \text{ }\mu\text{g/m}^3$$

The ITSL is 60  $\mu\text{g/m}^3$  based on an 8 hour averaging time.

References:

ACGIH. 1991. Documentation of Threshold Limit Values and Biological Exposure Indices. Cincinnati, OH. 657-659.

Derrybery, O.M., Bartholomew, M.D., and Flemming, R.L. 1963. Fluoride exposure and worker health. Archives of Environmental Health. 6:503—514.