Solutions Norman Prioritisation Workshop



Mixture effects and prioritisation schemes

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Technical guidance for EQS

For **well-defined mixtures**, ie those with a well defined qualitative and quantitative composition, the toxic unit (TU) approach (e.g. Altenburger and Greco 2009) may be used to calculate the EQS.

EQSs may be defined for **grouped** substances that **exert a similar mode of action** and may be expressed according to the concept of Toxic Equivalent [TEQ] concentrations in environmental samples.

Guidance Document No: 27 Technical Guidance For Deriving Environmental Quality Standards, p 117



0.00001

Why a similar mode of action?



- Effects can be predicted by using dose
 (concentration) addition or
 independent action
- Concepts have been allied with modes of action: dose addition – similar action; independent action – dissimilar action



Independent action



- Stochastic principles
- Additivity expectation: effect
 multiplication
- Simultaneous exposure: stochastic principles only fulfilled when components show different modes of action in inducing the same effect

Dose addition



- Agents behave like "dilutions" of each other
- Contribute to joint effect in proportion to their dose
- Additivity expectation: addition of equieffective doses
- Applied to combinations of similarly acting chemicals

Dose addition – examples of "similar action"





Algal toxicity of 16 dissimilarly acting toxicants Faust *et al.* (2003) Aquat Toxicol **63**, 43



Dose addition or independent action?



 Are hypotheses about modes of action a reliable basis for declaring "similar action"?

Mixtures of anticancer drugs



Mixtures of aneugens and clastogens



How then should we group?



- US EPA: Common mechanisms similar chemical structures
- US National Acad of Sciences (2008): Similar structures too narrow - common adverse outcomes
- Mechanisms: an unreliable grouping criterion

 information often not available
- Common adverse outcomes
 irrespective of mechanisms

Ranking according to toxic units

Kortenkamp *et al.* (2014), Reproduction

"Real world" mixture of AR antagonists



Ranking affected by:

- Toxicity endpoint
- Grouping decision
- Data availability (only possible if data for risk quotients available)

Tiered approaches – bypassing the grouping issue?

WHO / IPCS 2009



Increasing refinement of hazard models (MOA)

Mixture risk assessment factors





If every component is present at **TDI / n** the mixture effect is equal to an effect associated with TDI (the hope: 0)

MAF = n



