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ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ ЗДРАВООХРАНЕНИЯ  
ЕВРОПЕЙСКОЕ РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЕ БЮРО

## EUROPEAN REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON CHEMICAL SAFETY



GUIDELINES TO CONTROL AND PREVENT EXPOSURE  
TO PCBS, DIOXINS AND RELATED COMPOUNDS



Report on a WHO Consultation  
Helsinki, 27-29 January 1986

Limited distribution

ICP/CEH 547  
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## Introduction

Based on the agreement between the WHO Regional Office for Europe (EURO) and the Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, a collaborative programme has been initiated regarding the production of practical guidelines on control and prevention of exposure to PCBs, PCDDs and related compounds. The first consultation on the guidelines was held in August 1985 in Helsinki to evaluate the first draft of the guidelines prepared by experts recruited by EURO. In addition, the consultation discussed the content of the guidelines and that of the Environmental Health Criteria Document (EHCD) on PCBs and PCTs planned by the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS); it recommended that work on these two documents continue, with close coordination between EURO and IPCS.

The recruited experts thereafter modified their texts in accordance with the comments and proposals of the above consultation and the revised content of the guidelines prepared by the EURO secretariat.

The present Consultation was organized in collaboration with the Finnish National Board of Health as a joint activity of EURO and the Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki. It was attended by six temporary advisers with expertise in medicine, toxicology, occupational health, safety and hygiene, chemistry and technology of waste disposal, one representative each of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and IPCS and three observers from Finland (Annex 1).

Dr J. Riikonen, Director-General of the National Board of Labour Protection opened the Consultation, Dr J. Rantanen was invited to be Chairman and Dr V. Silano Vice-chairman. Dr Yrjänheikki was Rapporteur.

## Purpose

The purpose of this consultation was to review the revised texts and give comments and proposals for finalization and editing of the guidelines. The consultation also discussed and recommended further activities necessary for publication and distribution.

## Working papers

Twenty working papers prepared by the temporary advisers were presented and discussed by the consultation (see Annex 2). Furthermore, the revised content of the guidelines by EURO secretariat was evaluated.

## Discussion and recommendations

1. The meeting evaluated the aim and content of the two PCB documents. It recommended that work on both documents continue, with close coordination between IPCS and EURO.

Some changes in titles and sequence of chapters of the PCB guidelines were agreed.

The PCB guidelines are aimed especially towards those who now work with PCBs or who will eventually face PCB problems in their environment or at work places.

2. All working papers prepared in time for the meeting were discussed. A number of modifications and changes in the content of chapters were proposed which will be taken into account in the final revision of the texts. It was agreed that the remaining papers should be completed and circulated to participants of the meeting by 15 February 1986.

The names of the authors should be listed in the document instead of including them in each chapter.

All references used in the document would be included in each individual chapter.

Proposals for the title of the guidelines were presented to the EURO secretariat which will make the final choice.

3. To finalize the PCB guidelines, the following activities and time schedule were agreed:

- revised final version of chapters from experts by 1 April 1986,
- pre-editorial work by EURO secretariat and mailing to experts by end of April 1986,
- comments on edited version from experts by 15 May 1986,
- final editing by EURO secretariat according to comments from experts by end of May 1986,
- publication and distribution of document by end of September 1986.

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List of Working Papers and Background Documents

Working papers

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/1 Rev.1	Provisional list of working papers and background documents
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/2	Scope and purpose
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/3	Provisional agenda
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/4	Provisional programme
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/5	Provisional list of participants
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/6	Properties of PCBs, by E. Yrjänheikki
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/7	Properties of PCDDs and PCDFs, by E. Yrjänheikki
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/8	Production of PCBs, by E. Yrjänheikki
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/9	Use of PCBs, by C. Rappe
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/10	Production and occurrence of PCDDs and PCDFs, by C. Rappe
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/11	Analytical procedures of PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs, by C. Rappe
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/12	Environmental exposure to PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs, by V. Silano
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/13	Occupational exposure to PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs, by J. Rantanen
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/14	Intakes of PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs from different sources, by U. Ahlborg
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/15	Health effects and metabolism, by U. Ahlborg
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/16	Human health effects found in occupational and accidental exposure to PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs, by J. Rantanen
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/17	Regulatory aspects concerning the general environment, by V. Silano
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/18	Regulatory aspects concerning the work environment, by J. Rantanen
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/19	Types of accidents involving the release of PCBs, PCDDs and PCDFs, by V. Silano
ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/20	General principles for prevention of PCB accidents, by J. Bentley and A. Aitio

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/21+22

Management of PCB leakages, and fires and explosions in PCB-containing electrical equipment, by A. Aitio et al

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/23

Instructions in case of disasters and explosions in plants or storage facilities, by V. Silano

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/24

Instructions for disposal of PCB wastes, by J. Bentley

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/25

Instructions for substitution of PCBs, by J. Bentley

ICP/CEH 501/s01/A.2/26

Hazard assessment associated with exposure to PCBs and related compounds, by J. Rantanen

Background documents

Guidelines to control and prevent exposure to PCBs, dioxins and related compounds (Proposal was made in January 1986 for final contents to be published in Environmental Health series of EURO).