NIOSH Skin Notation Profiles Dimethyl Sulfate (DMS)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health



This page intentionally left blank.

NIOSH Skin Notation (SK) Profile

Dimethyl Sulfate (DMS) [CAS No. 77-78-1]

Naomi L. Hudson and G. Scott Dotson

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health This document is in the public domain and may be freely copied or reprinted.

Disclaimer

Mention of any company or product does not constitute endorsement by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). In addition, citations to websites external to NIOSH do not constitute NIOSH endorsement of the sponsoring organizations or their programs or products. Furthermore, NIOSH is not responsible for the content of these websites.

Ordering Information

To receive this document or information about other occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH:

Telephone: 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 E-mail: cdcinfo@cdc.gov

or visit the NIOSH website: www.cdc.gov/niosh

For a monthly update on news at NIOSH, subscribe to *NIOSH eNews* by visiting **www.cdc.gov/niosh/eNews**.

Suggested Citation

NIOSH [2017]. NIOSH skin notation profile: Dimethyl sulfate. By Hudson NL, Dotson GS. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-189.

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-189

August 2017

Foreword

As the largest organ of the body, the skin performs multiple critical functions, such as serving as the primary barrier to the external environment. For this reason, the skin is often exposed to potentially hazardous agents, including chemicals, which may contribute to the onset of a spectrum of adverse health effects ranging from localized damage (e.g., irritant contact dermatitis and corrosion) to induction of immune-mediated responses (e.g., allergic contact dermatitis and pulmonary responses), or systemic toxicity (e.g., neurotoxicity and hepatotoxicity). Understanding the hazards related to skin contact with chemicals is a critical component of modern occupational safety and health programs.

In 2009, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) published *Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) 61: A Strategy for Assigning New NIOSH Skin Notations* [NIOSH 2009-147]. This document provides the scientific rationale and framework for the assignment of multiple hazard-specific skin notations (SKs) that clearly distinguish between the systemic effects, direct (localized) effects, and immune-mediated responses caused by skin contact with chemicals. The key step within assignment of the hazard-specific SK is the determination of the hazard potential of the substance, or its potential for causing adverse health effects as a result of skin exposure. This determination entails a health hazard identification process that involves use of the following:

- Scientific data on the physicochemical properties of a chemical
- Data on human exposures and health effects
- Empirical data from in vivo and in vitro laboratory testing
- Computational techniques, including predictive algorithms and mathematical models that describe a selected process (e.g., skin permeation) by means of analytical or numerical methods.

This *Skin Notation Profile* provides the SK assignments and supportive data for for dimethyl sulfate (DMS). In particular, this document evaluates and summarizes the literature describing the hazard potential of the substance and its assessment according to the scientific rationale and framework outlined in CIB 61. In meeting this objective, this *Skin Notation Profile* intends to inform the audience—mostly occupational health practitioners, researchers, policy- and decision-makers, employers, and workers in potentially hazardous workplaces—so that improved risk-management practices may be developed to better protect workers from the risks of skin contact with the chemicals of interest.

John Howard, M.D. Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention This page intentionally left blank.

Contents

Foreword.	iii
Abbreviations	vi
Glossary	viii
Acknowledgments	ix
1 Introduction	1
1.1 General Substance Information:	1
1.2 Purpose	1
1.3 Overview of SK Assignment	1
2 Systemic Toxicity from Skin Exposure (SK: SYS)	1
3 Direct Effects on Skin (SK: DIR)	3
4 Immune-mediated Responses (SK: SEN)	4
5 Summary	4
References	5
Appendix: Calculation of the SI Ratio for DMS	7
Overview	7
Calculation	8
Appendix References	8

 \mathbf{v}

Abbreviations

ACGIH	American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
ATSDR	Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CIB	Current Intelligence Bulletin
cm ²	square centimeter(s)
cm/hour	centimeter(s) per hour
cm/s	centimeter(s) per second
DEREK	Deductive Estimation of Risk from Existing Knowledge
DIR	skin notation indicating the potential for direct effects to the skin following contact with a chemical
DMS	dimethyl sulfate
EC	European Commission
ECB	European Chemicals Bureau
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
GPMT	guinea pig maximization test
IARC	International Agency for Research on Cancer
(IRR)	subnotation of SK: DIR indicating the potential for a chemical to be a skin irritant following exposure to the skin
k_{aq}	coefficient in the watery epidermal layer
k_p	skin permeation coefficient
k _{pol}	coefficient in the protein fraction of the stratum corneum
k_{psc}	permeation coefficient in the lipid fraction of the stratum corneum
LD ₅₀	dose resulting in 50% mortality in the exposed population
	dermal lethal dose
LLNA	local lymph node assay
LOAEL	lowest-observed-adverse-effect level
$\log K_{OW}$	base-10 logarithm of a substance's octanol-water partition
M	molarity
m ³	cubic meter(s)
mg	milligram(s)
mg/cm ² /hour	milligram(s) per square centimeter per hour
mg/kg	milligram(s) per kilogram body weight
mg/m ³	milligram(s) per cubic meter
mL	milliliter(s)
mL/kg	milliliter(s) per kilogram body weight
MW	molecular weight
NIOSH	National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
NOAEL	no-observed-adverse-effect level
NTP	National Toxicology Program
OEL	occupational exposure limit

OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
ppm	parts per million
REL	recommended exposure limit
RF	retention factor
SEN	skin notation indicating the potential for immune-mediated reactions following exposure of the skin
SI ratio	ratio of skin dose to inhalation dose
SK	skin notation
S_W	solubility in water
SYS	skin notation indicating the potential for systemic toxicity following exposure of the skin
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency

Glossary

Absorption—The transport of a chemical from the outer surface of the skin into both the skin and systemic circulation (including penetration, permeation, and resorption).

Acute exposure—Contact with a chemical that occurs once or for only a short period of time.

Cancer—Any one of a group of diseases that occur when cells in the body become abnormal and grow or multiply out of control.

Contaminant—A chemical that is (1) unintentionally present within a neat substance or mixture at a concentration less than 1.0% or (2) recognized as a potential carcinogen and present within a neat substance or mixture at a concentration less than 0.1%.

Cutaneous (or percutaneous)—Referring to the skin (or through the skin).

Dermal—Referring to the skin.

Dermal contact—Contact with (touching) the skin.

Direct effects—Localized, non-immune-mediated adverse health effects on the skin, including corrosion, primary irritation, changes in skin pigmentation, and reduction/disruption of the skin barrier integrity, occurring at or near the point of contact with chemicals.

Immune-mediated responses—Responses mediated by the immune system, including allergic responses.

Sensitization—A specific immune-mediated response that develops following exposure to a chemical, which, upon re-exposure, can lead to allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) or other immune-mediated diseases such as asthma, depending on the site and route of re-exposure.

Substance—A chemical.

Systemic effects—Systemic toxicity associated with skin absorption of chemicals after exposure of the skin.

Acknowledgments

This document was developed by the Education and Information Division (Paul Schulte, Ph.D., Director). Naomi Hudson, Dr.P.H., MPH, was the project officer for this document, assisted in great part by G. Scott Dotson, Ph.D., Clayton B'Hymer, Ph.D., and Todd Niemeier, M.Sc. The basis for this document was a report (*Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment [TERA]*) contracted by NIOSH and prepared by Bernard Gadagbui, Ph.D., and Andrew Maier, Ph.D.

For their contribution to the technical content and review of this document, special acknowledgment is given to the following NIOSH personnel:

Denver Field Office

Eric Esswein, M.Sc.

Division of Applied Research and Technology

John Snawder, Ph.D. Mark Toraason, Ph.D.

Division of Respiratory Disease Studies

Gregory A. Day, Ph.D. Aleksander Stefaniak, Ph.D.

Division of Surveillance, Hazard Evaluations, and Field Studies

Matt Dahm, M.Sc. Aaron Sussell, Ph.D. Loren Tapp, M.D.

Education and Information Division

Devin Baker, M.Ed. Charles L. Geraci, Ph.D. Thomas J. Lentz, Ph.D. Richard Niemeier, Ph.D. Sudha Pandalai, M.D., Ph.D.

Health Effects Laboratory Division

Stacey Anderson, Ph.D. H. Fredrick Frasch, Ph.D. Vic Johnson, Ph.D. Michael Luster, Ph.D. Paul Siegel, Ph.D. Berran Yucesoy, Ph.D.

National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory

Heinz Ahlers, JD, M.Sc. Angie Shepherd For their contribution to the technical content and review of this document, special acknowledgment is given to the following CDC personnel:

Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology and Laboratory Services/Epidemiology and Analysis Program Office

Barbara Landreth, M.A.

In addition, special appreciation is expressed to the following individuals for serving as independent, external reviewers and providing comments that contributed to the development or improvement of this document:

Larry Kenneth Lowry, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler, Tyler, TX

Gloria Post, Ph.D., New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, NJ

Sean Semple, Ph.D., Senior lecturer. Scottish Centre for Indoor Air Division of Applied Health Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland

G. Frank Gerberick, Ph.D., The Procter and Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH

Dori Germolec, Ph.D., National Toxicology Program, National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences, Research Triangle, NC

Ben Hayes, M.D., Ph.D., Division of Dermatology, Vanderbilt School of Medicine, Nashville, TN Jennifer Sahmel, M.Sc., CIH, ChemRisk, Boulder, CO

James Taylor, M.D., Industrial Dermatology, The Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH

1 Introduction

1.1 General Substance Information:

Chemical: Dimethyl sulfate

CAS No: 77-78-1

Molecular weight (MW): 126.1

Molecular formula: (CH₃)₂SO₄

Structural formula:



Synonyms: DMS; Methyl sulfate; Dimethyl ester of sulfric acid; Dimethylsulfate

Uses: Dimethyl sulfate (DMS) is primarily used as a methylating and sulfonating agent during the manufacturing of organic compounds [ACGIH 2001].

1.2 Purpose

This skin notation profile presents (1) a brief summary of epidemiological and toxicological data associated with skin contact with DMS and (2) the rationale behind the hazard-specific skin notation (SK) assignment for DMS. The SK assignment is based on the scientific rationale and logic outlined in the Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) 61: A Strategy for Assigning New NIOSH Skin Notations [NIOSH 2009]. The summarized information and health hazard assessment are limited to an evaluation of the potential health effects of dermal exposure to DMS. A literature search was conducted through June 2017 to identify information on DMS, including but not limited to data relating to its toxicokinetics, acute toxicity, repeated-dose systemic toxicity, carcinogenicity, biological system/functionspecific effects (including reproductive and developmental effects and immunotoxicity), irritation, and sensitization. Information was considered from studies of humans, animals, or appropriate modeling systems that are relevant to assessing the effects of dermal

exposure to DMS. The criteria for the search strategy, evaluation, and selection of data are described in Appendix E in CIB 61: A Strategy for Assigning New NIOSH Skin Notations [NIOSH 2009].

1.3 Overview of SK Assignment

DMS is potentially capable of causing numerous adverse health effects following skin contact. A critical review of available data has resulted in the following SK assignment for DMS: SK: **SYS-DIR (COR)**. Table 1 provides an overview of the critical effects and data used to develop the SK assignment for DMS.

2 Systemic Toxicity from Skin Exposure (SK: SYS)

Quantitative information about absorption via the dermal route of exposure to DMS has not been identified. However, the chemical is considered to be rapidly absorbed through intact skin [Rippey and Stallwood 2005]. In an occupational

Skin notation	Critical effect	Available data
SK: SYS	Hematological effects; renal toxicity; central nervous system effects	Limited human data
SK: DIR (COR)	Skin corrosion	Sufficient human and animal data

Table 1. Summary of the SK assignment for DMS

exposure study, Schettgen et al. [2004] observed a significant increase in hemoglobin adducts of DMS in a group of employees that worked in a specific building of a chemical plant where stationary monitoring of DMS showed only values below the limit of detection (reported as 10 µg/ m³) data collected with area samples, which are less accurate for estimating worker exposure than personal breathing zone samples. According to these investigators, the high exposures to DMS were attributed to skin contact with residues of unreacted DMS in the product [Schettgen et al. 2004]. Based on this information, the chemical may be considered to have the potential to be absorbed following dermal exposure. The potential of DMS to pose a skin absorption hazard was also evaluated, with use of a predictive algorithm for estimating and evaluating the health hazards of dermal exposure to substances [NIOSH 2009]. The evaluation method compares an estimated dose accumulated in the body from skin absorption and an estimated dose from respiratory absorption associated with a reference occupational exposure limit. On the basis of this algorithm, a ratio of the skin dose to the inhalation dose (SI ratio) of 12.8 was calculated for DMS. An SI ratio of ≥ 0.1 indicates that skin absorption may significantly contribute to the overall body burden of a substance [NIOSH 2009]; therefore, DMS is considered to be a skin absorption hazard following dermal exposure. Additional information on the SI ratio and the variables used in its calculation are included in the appendix.

No dermal lethal dose (LD_{Lo}) for humans or dermal LD_{50} values (the dose resulting in 50% mortality in the exposed animals) in experimental animals have been identified.

Although no epidemiological studies or dermal repeated-dose studies using DMS have been identified, several reports in the literature demonstrate systemic and pulmonary toxicity resulting from skin contamination through spills, though, in such cases, there might have been some contribution by inhalation exposure [Littler and McConnell 1955; Wang et al. 1988; Schettgen et al 2004; Yagami et al. 2009]. Although no quantitative information on the exposure dose was provided, these case reports demonstrate that dermal exposure to DMS can result in systemic effects (e.g., albuminuria, hematuria, hypoglycemia) indicating involvement of the kidneys and nausea, headache and irritability, indicating central nervous system effects.

No repeat-dose or subchronic standard toxicity or specialty studies evaluating biological system/ function specific effects (including reproductive and developmental effects and immunotoxicity) or standard cancer bioassays following dermal exposure to DMS were identified in animals. Hoffman [1980] indicated that DMS is a methylating material that can act as a mutagenic substance for nucleic acids. However, in animal studies, van Duuren et al. [1974] observed no carcinogenic effects when 0.1 mL (corresponding to 133 mg) solution of DMS in 0.1 mL acetone was applied to the skin of 20 mice three times per week for a period of 385 or 475 days. The authors also observed no cancers when the chemical was combined with the tumor promotor phorbol myristate acetate and did not report any findings on the non-neoplastic changes in this study [van Duuren et al. 1974]. Although no studies were identified that demonstrate the potential of DMS to be carcinogenic, the chemical has been

Organization	Carcinogenic designation
NIOSH [2005]	Potential occupational carcinogen
NTP [2014]	Reasonably anticipated to be human carcinogen
European Parliament [2008]	GHS Category 1B: May cause cancer
USEPA [1992]	Group B2: Probable human carcinogen
IARC [2012]	Group 2A: Probably carcinogenic to humans
ACGIH [2001]	Group A3: Confirmed animal carcinogen with unknown relevance to humans

Table 2. Summary of the carcinogenic designations* for DMS by numerous governmental and nongovernmental organizations

ACGIH = American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists; GHS = Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; IARC = International Agency for Research on Cancer; NIOSH = National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; NTP = National Toxicology Program; USEPA = United States Environmental Protection Agency.

"The listed cancer designations were based on data from nondermal (such as oral or inhalation) exposure, since studies using the dermal route of exposure were unavailable.

evaluated for carcinogenicity via other routes of exposure. Table 2 summarizes carcinogenic designations of multiple governmental and nongovernmental organizations for DMS.

Based on the limited information from occupational case reports [Littler and McConnell 1955; Wang et al. 1988; Schettgen et al 2004; Yagami et al. 2009]^{*} and supported by a mathematical model, DMS is systemically available and toxic following dermal exposure. Therefore, on the basis of the data for this assessment, DMS is assigned the SK: SYS notation.

3 Direct Effects on Skin (SK: DIR)

No human or animal *in vivo* studies on corrosivity of DMS or *in vitro* tests for corrosivity using human skin models or *in vitro* tests of skin integrity using cadaver skin were identified. However, several case reports were identified that indicate varying skin changes from simple redness to skin burns depending on the length of contact. For example, Littler and McConnell [1955] reported burns from a direct spill on the skin of a student, who dropped and broke a 2.5 L bottle that was almost full of DMS. Littler and McConnel [1955] also reported a worker whose job duties included working on an analgesic drug to which dimethyl sulfate was added. The worker whose work clothing was likely splashed with dimethyl sulfate, experienced disturbances in vision, breathing difficulties, and swollen and vesicated skin [Littler and McConnel 1955]. Wang et al. [1988] reported that within 1-2 hours of skin exposure to DMS, redness, swelling, pain, bleb formation, and burns were present. Yagami et al. [2009] reported a patient that spilled 100% DMS in his lap; the patient developed severe irritation, redness, swelling, and blisters at the exposure site. In the cases reported by Littler and McConnell [1955], Wang et al. [1988] and Yagami et al. [2009], there was a delay in onset of symptoms. DMS has anesthetic effects: thus, the sensation of skin contact may not be noticed until the onset of significant tissue damage.

In animals, Dow [1938] reported necrosis, blistering and deep ulceration when 0.001 cubic centimeters per square centimeter (cc/cm²) was applied to the ear and abdomen (species unspecified). A review by Browning [1965] reported

^{*}References in **bold** text indicate studies that serve as the basis of the SK assignments.

that the chemical caused secondary and tertiary burns when applied directly to animal skin, although no further detailed information was provided. No irritation was observed when 0.01 ml undiluted DMS were applied to the skin of guinea pigs, but 0.1 ml was sufficient to produced moderate to severe skin irritation [E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972]. The structure activity relationship model, Deductive Estimation of Risk from Existing Knowledge (*DEREK*) for Windows, predicted DMS to be a plausible skin irritant.

Taken together, human [Littler and McConnell 1955; Wang et al. 1988; Yagami et al. 2009] and animal data [Dow 1938; Browning 1965; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972] demonstrate that DMS is corrosive at high doses and prolonged dermal exposure, and irritating at low concentrations. Therefore, on the basis of the data for this assessment, DMS is assigned the SK: DIR (COR) notation.

4 Immune-mediated Responses (SK: SEN)

There is limited information identified from occupational exposures. Yagami et al. [2009] reported a patient that spilled 100% DMS in his lap; the patient developed severe irritation, redness, swelling, and blisters at the exposure site. The authors suspected that the patient developed allergic contact dermatitis to DMS, and patch tested him using 0.1% pet. DMS and noted a positive skin reaction [Yagami et al. 2009]. In guinea pigs, 0.05 ml (67 mg) of 0.5% and 1% DMS solution was sufficient to cause positive responses upon the challenge dose, although no guinea pigs were sensitized [E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972]. E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company [1972] defined sensitization as a two-step score increase at the time of challenge over the response expected from the same amount applied initially, and none of the guinea pigs exhibited an increased score (from mild to moderate erythema to erythema with edema) upon the second challenge. Ashby et al. [1995] suggested that DMS is a potential skin sensitizer based on the results of their murine

local lymph node assay (LLNA). In this assay, topical application of 0.25, 0.5 and 1% DMS in acetone/olive oil (80/20 v/v) resulted in greater than a 3-fold increase in thymidine isotope incorporation in the lymph nodes of exposed mice compared with vehicle controls [Ashby et al. 1995]. Ashby et al. [1995] considered a 3-fold increase to be determinant of sensitizing activity. The ECB [2002] review of the Ashby et al. [1995] study noted that the positive response observed may be due to the corrosive properties of the chemical. In a non-standard Ear-Flank Test the authors [Stevens 1967] concluded that the chemical was not a skin sensitizer. In guinea pigs, 0.05 ml (67 mg) of 0.5% DMS solution was not sufficient to cause sensitization when applied to the intact skin [E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972].

Although positive responses were observed in the murine LLNA test [Ashby et al. 1995] and in a single human patch test [Yagami et al. 2009], conflicting evidence in animal studies [Stevens 1967; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972] suggests that DMS is not capable of causing immune-mediated responses (i.e., sensitization) following skin contact and that the positive responses may be attributable to corrosive properties of the chemical. Therefore, on the basis of the data for this assessment, DMS is not assigned the SK: SEN notation.

5 Summary

Although limited information was identified on the toxicokinetics and systemic toxicity of DMS, occupational case reports [Littler and McConnell 1955; Wang et al. 1988; Schettgen et al 2004; Yagami et al. 2009] supported by the mathematical model prediction demonstrate that DMS is systemically available and toxic following dermal exposure. DMS is corrosive at high doses and following prolonged dermal exposure and irritating at lower concentrations based on human [Littler and McConnell 1955; Wang et al. 1988; Yagami et al. 2009] and animal [Dow 1938; Browning 1965; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972] studies. Although positive responses were observed in

Organization	Skin hazard designation
NIOSH [2005]	[skin]: Potential for dermal absorption
OSHA [2017]*	[skin]: Potential for dermal absorption
ACGIH [2001]	[skin]: Based on systemic toxicity reported for workers from dermal contact with DMS

Table 3. Summary of previous skin hazard designations for DMS

ACGIH = American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists; NIOSH = National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

*Date accessed.

the murine LLNA test [Ashby et al. 1995] and in a single human patch test [Yagami et al. 2009], conflicting evidence in animal studies [Stevens 1967; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company 1972] suggests that DMS is not capable of causing immune-mediated responses (i.e., sensitization) following skin contact and that the positive responses may be attributable to corrosive properties of the chemical. Therefore, on the basis of these assessments, DMS is assigned a composite skin notation of **SK: SYS-DIR (COR)**.

Table 3 summarizes the skin hazard designations for DMS previously issued by NIOSH and other organizations. The equivalent dermal designations for DMS, according to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of classification and labeling of chemicals, are Skin Corrosion Category 1B (Causes severe skin burns and eye damage) and Skin Sensitization Category 1 (May cause an allergic skin reaction) [European Parliament 2008].

References

Note: Asterisks (*) denote sources cited in text; daggers (†) denote additional resources.

- *ACGIH (American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists) [2001]. Dimethyl sulfate. In: Documentation of threshold limit values and biological exposure indices. 7th ed., Vol. 1. Cincinnati, OH: American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists.
- *Ashby J, Basketter DA, Paton D, Kimber I [1995]. Structure activity relationships in a skin sensitization using the murine local lymph node assay. Toxicology *103*:177–194.

- *Browning E [1965]. Toxicity and metabolism of industrial solvents. Amsterdam, Netherlands pp. 713–721.
- *Dow Chemical Company [1938]. The skin irritating action of dimethylsulfate. Midland, MI: Dow Chemical Company. On file with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under TSCA Section 8D. OTS #0557225.
- †E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company [1943]. Preliminary tests on the toxicology of diethyl sulfate and diethyl peroxide. By Fleming AJ. Wilmington, DE: E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicial Research Project No. MR-119. On file with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under TSCA Section 8D. OTS #0557105.
- *E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company [1972]. Primary skin irritation and sensitization tests on guinea pigs. By McDonnell ME. Newark, DE: E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Haskell Laboratory for Toxicology and Industrial Medicine Report No. 22-72. On file with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under TSCA Section 8D. OTS #0557106.
- *European Parliament, Council of the European Union [2008]. Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. OJEU, Off J Eur Union L353:1–1355, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ. do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:1355:EN:PDF. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- *Hoffman GK [1980]. Genetic effects of DMS, diethyl sulfate and related compounds. Mutat Res 75:63–109.
- *IARC (International Agency for Research on Cancer) [2012]. Agents reviewed by the IARC

monographs. In: IARC monographs on the evaluation of carcinogenic risks to humans, http://monographs.iarc.fr/ENG/Monographs/PDFs/index.php. Accessed: 06-06-17.

- *Littler TR, McConnell RB [1955]. Dimethyl sulphate poisoning. Br J Ind Med *12*:54–56.
- *NIOSH [2005]. NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards. By Barsan ME. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2005-149. Date accessed: 06-06-17.
- *NIOSH [2009]. Current intelligence bulletin 61: a strategy for assigning new NIOSH skin notations. By Alhers HW, Chen-Peng C, Demchuk E, Dotson GS. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2009-147. Date accessed: 06-06-17.
- *NTP [2014]. Report on Carcinogens. Thirteenth Edition; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service. National Toxicology Program, https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ annualreport/2015/glance/roc/index.html. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- *OSHA [ND]. Dimethyl sulfate. In: OSHA Occupational chemical database, http://www.osha.gov/ chemicaldata/chemResult.html?recNo=644. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- *Rippey JCR, Stallwood MI [2005]. Nine cases of accidental exposure to dimethyl sulphate a potential chemical weapon. Emerg Med J 22:878–879.

- *Schettgen T, Broding HC, Angerer J, Drexler H [2004]. Dimethyl sulphate; a hidden problem in occupational medicine. Occup Environ Med 61:73–75.
- *Stevens MA [1967]. Use of the albino guinea-pig to detect the skin-sensitizing ability of chemicals. Brit J Industr Med 24:189–202.
- *UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) [2007]. Part 3: health hazards. In: Globally harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemical (GHS): third revised edition, http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/ publi/ghs/ghs_rev02/English/03e_part3. pdf. Accessed: 01-27-15.
- †USEPA [2005]. Guidelines for carcinogen risk assessment. Washington, DC: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA/630/P-03/001F.
- *USEPA [1992]. Integrated Risk Information System: dimethyl sulfate. In: Integrated Risk Information System, https://www.epa.gov/iris. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- *van Duuren; Goldschmidt BM; Katz C; Seidman I; Paul JS [1974]. J Natl Cancer Inst 53:695–700.
- *Wang Y, Xia J, Wang, Q [1988]. Clinical Report of 62 Cases of Acute Dimethyl Sulfate Intoxication. Am J Ind Med *13*:455–462.
- *Yagami A, Kawai N, Kosai N, Inoue T, Suzuki K, Matsunaga K [2009]. Occupational allergic contact dermatitis due to dimethyl sulfate following sensitization from a severe acute irritant reaction to the reagent. Contact Dermatitis 60(3):183–184.

Appendix: Calculation of the SI Ratio for DMS

This appendix presents an overview of the SI ratio and a summary of the calculation of the SI ratio for DMS. Although the SI ratio is considered in the determination of a substance's hazard potential following skin contact, it is intended to serve as supportive data during the assignment of the NIOSH SK. An in-depth discussion on the rationale and calculation of the SI ratio can be found in Appendix B of the *Current Intelligence Bulletin (CIB) 61: A Strategy for Assigning New NIOSH Skin Notations* [NIOSH 2009].

Overview

The SI ratio is a predictive algorithm for estimating and evaluating the health hazards of skin exposure to substances. The algorithm is designed to evaluate the potential for a substance to penetrate the skin and induce systemic toxicity [NIOSH 2009]. The goals for incorporating this algorithm into the proposed strategy for assigning SYS notation are as follows:

- 1. Provide an alternative method to evaluate substances for which no clinical reports or animal toxicity studies exist or for which empirical data are insufficient to determine systemic effects.
- 2. Use the algorithm evaluation results to determine whether a substance poses a skin absorption hazard and should be labeled with the SYS notation.

The algorithm evaluation includes three steps:

- determining a skin permeation coefficient (*k_p*) for the substance of interest,
- 2. estimating substance uptake by the skin and respiratory absorption routes, and
- 3. evaluating whether the substance poses a skin exposure hazard.

The algorithm is flexible in the data requirement and can operate entirely on the basis of the physicochemical properties of a substance and the relevant exposure parameters. Thus, the algorithm is independent of the need for biologic data. Alternatively, it can function with both the physicochemical properties and the experimentally determined permeation coefficient when such data are available and appropriate for use.

The first step in the evaluation is to determine the k_p for the substance to describe the transdermal penetration rate of the substance [NIOSH 2009]. The k_p , which represents the overall diffusion of the substance through the stratum corneum and into the blood capillaries of the dermis, is estimated from the compound's molecular weight (*MW*) and base-10 logarithm of its octanol–water partition coefficient (log K_{OW}). In this example, k_p is determined for a substance with use of Equation 1. A self-consistent set of units must be used, such as outlined in Table A1. Other model-based estimates of k_p may also be used [NIOSH 2009].

Equation 1: Calculation of Skin Permeation Coefficient (k_p)

$$k_p = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{k_{psc} + k_{pol}} + \frac{1}{k_{aq}}}$$

where k_{psc} is the permeation coefficient in the lipid fraction of the stratum corneum, k_{pol} is the coefficient in the protein fraction of the stratum corneum, and k_{aq} is the coefficient in the watery epidermal layer. These components are individually estimated by

$$log k_{psc} = -1.326 + 0.6097 \times log K_{ow} - 0.1786 \\ \times MW^{0.5} \\ k_{pol} = 0.0001519 \times MW^{-0.5} \\ k_{aa} = 2.5 \times MW^{-0.5}$$

The second step is to calculate the biologic mass uptake of the substance from skin absorption (skin dose) and inhalation (inhalation dose) during the same period of exposure. The skin dose is calculated as a mathematical product of the k_p , the water solubility (S_W) of the substance, the exposed skin surface area, and the duration of exposure. Its units are milligrams (mg). Assume that the skin exposure continues for 8 hours to unprotected skin on the palms of both hands (a surface area of 360 square centimeters [cm²]).

Equation 2: Determination of Skin Dose

Skin dose =
$$k_p \times S_w \times$$
 Exposed skin surface
area × Exposure time
= k_p (cm/hour) × S_w (mg/cm³)
× 360 cm² × 8 hours

The inhalation dose (in mg) is derived on the basis of the occupational exposure limit (OEL) of the substance—if the OEL is developed to prevent the occurrence of systemic effects rather than sensory/irritant effects or direct effects on the respiratory tract. Assume a continuous exposure of 8 hours, an inhalation volume of 10 cubic meters (m³) inhaled air in 8 hours, and a factor of 75% for retention of the airborne substance in the lungs during respiration (retention factor, or RF).

Equation 3: Determination of Inhalation Dose

The final step is to compare the calculated skin and inhalation doses and to present the result as a ratio of skin dose to inhalation dose (the SI ratio). This ratio quantitatively indicates (1) the significance of dermal absorption as a route of occupational exposure to the substance and (2) the contribution of dermal uptake to systemic toxicity. If a substance has an SI ratio greater than or equal to 0.1, it is considered a skin absorption hazard.

Calculation

Table A1 summarizes the data applied in the previously described equations to determine the SI ratio for DMS. The calculated SI ratio was 12.8. On the basis of these results, DMS is predicted to represent a skin absorption hazard.

Appendix References

- Hayes, Wallace A [2008]. Principles and Methods of Toxicology. Fifth Edition. Informa Healthcare USA, Inc. New York, NY.
- NIOSH [2005]. NIOSH pocket guide to chemical hazards. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2005–149, http:// www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- NIOSH [2009]. Current intelligence bulletin 61: a strategy for assigning new NIOSH skin notations. Cincinnati, OH: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2009-147, http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2009-147/ pdfs/2009-147.pdf. Accessed: 06-06-17.
- SRC [ND]. Interactive PhysProp database demo, http://esc.syrres.com/fatepointer/webprop. asp?CAS=77781. Accessed: 06-06-17.

Variables used in calculation	Units	Value
Skin permeation coefficient		
Permeation coefficient of stratum corneum lipid $path(k_{psc})$	cm/hr	5.8309 × 10-4
Permeation coefficient of the protein fraction of the stratum corneum (k_{pol})	cm/hr	1.3525 × 10-5
Permeation coefficient of the watery epidermal layer (k_{aq})	cm/hr	0.2226
Molecular weight $(MW)^{*}$	amu	126.13
Base-10 logarithm of its octanol–water partition coefficient (Log K_{ow})*	None	0.16
Calculated skin permeation coefficient (k_p)	cm/hr	$5.9502 \times 10-4$
Skin dose		
Water solubility $(S_w)^*$	mg/cm ³	28
Calculated skin permeation coefficient (k_p)	cm/hr	$5.9502 \times 10-4$
Estimated skin surface area (palms of hand) $^{\$}$	cm^2	360
Exposure time	hr	8
Calculated skin dose	mg	47.98
Inhalation Dose		
Occupational exposure limit (OEL) †	mg/m ³	0.5
Inhalation volume	m ³	10
Retention factor (RF)	None	0.75
Inhalation dose	mg	3.75
Skin dose-to-inhalation dose (SI) ratio	None	12.8

Table A1. Summary of data used to calculate the SI ratio for DMS

*Variables identified from SRC [ND]. *The OEL used in calculation of the SI ratio for DMS was the NIOSH recommended exposure limit (REL) [NIOSH 2005].

⁵Hayes, Wallace A [2008]. Principles and Methods of Toxicology. Fifth Edition. Informa Healthcare USA, Inc. New York, NY



Delivering on the Nation's promise: safety and health at work for all people through research and prevention

To receive NIOSH documents or more information about occupational safety and health topics, contact NIOSH at

1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) TTY: 1-888-232-6348 CDC-INFO: **www.cdc.gov/info**

or visit the NIOSH website at www.cdc.gov/niosh.

For a monthly update on news at NIOSH, subscribe to *NIOSH eNews* by visiting **www.cdc.gov/niosh/eNews**.

DHHS (NIOSH) Publication No. 2017-189