

UPDATED INFORMATIVE DIGEST

Section Affected: section 93000, Title 17, California Code of Regulations. The amendment was adopted as proposed without change.

Background

Assembly Bill 1807 (Stats. 1983, ch. 1047; Health and Safety Code section 39650 et seq., Food and Agriculture Code section 14021 et seq.) sets forth procedures for the identification and control of toxic air contaminants in California. In accordance with those procedures, staff is proposing that the ARB amend section 93000 of Title 17, California Code of Regulations, by adding inorganic lead to the list of toxic air contaminants with no identified threshold exposure level below which no significant adverse health effects are anticipated.

In accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 39660 and 39661, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) staff has prepared an evaluation of the health effects of inorganic lead and the ARB staff has prepared a report on inorganic lead which includes the OEHHA health effects evaluation. The OEHHA staff found that at relatively low concentrations of lead in the air, the following adverse health effects that may occur: (1) neurodevelopmental effects in children; (2) increased blood pressure and related cardiovascular conditions in adults; and (3) cancer. The neurodevelopmental effects are of greatest public health significance because a large number of children may be affected, no exposure threshold has been clearly identified, and the effects may be irreversible. The OEHHA staff also found that there was no sufficient scientific evidence available to support the identification of an exposure level below which carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic effects would not have some probability of occurring and recommended that inorganic lead be treated as having no identified threshold.

The Scientific Review Panel (SRP), established pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 39670, has reviewed the report, and has submitted written findings to the ARB, in accordance with Health and Safety Code section 39661. The SRP found the report on inorganic lead to be without serious deficiency and did not find that the report was not based upon sound scientific knowledge, methods, or practices. The SRP agreed with the ARB staff recommendation that inorganic lead be listed by the ARB as a TAC. The SRP also found that, based on available scientific information, a level of inorganic lead exposure below which no carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic effects are anticipated cannot be identified.

Description of Proposed Regulatory Action

In accordance with Health and Safety Code section 39662, the ARB staff prepared, and the Board approved, a proposed regulation identifying inorganic lead as a TAC with no identified threshold

exposure level. No control measures for inorganic lead were proposed for adoption at this hearing. After considering all of the reports, comments, and testimony, the Board voted to adopt the resolution identifying inorganic lead as a TAC. A report on the need for, and appropriate degree of, control measures to reduce inorganic lead emissions will be developed in a full open public process and in accordance with Health and Safety Code sections 39665 and 39666 at a later date. Any control measures will be the subject of a separate rulemaking.