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Environmental Health Criteria 236

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS FOR ASSESSING AUTOIMMUNITY ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO CHEMICALS

First draft prepared by the World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Immunotoxicology and Allergic Hypersensitivity at the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), Bilthoven, The Netherlands, in conjunction with an international group of experts.

Published under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, and produced within the framework of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.

The **International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS)**, established in 1980, is a joint venture of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The overall objectives of the IPCS are to establish the scientific basis for assessment of the risk to human health and the environment from exposure to chemicals, through international peer review processes, as a prerequisite for the promotion of chemical safety, and to provide technical assistance in strengthening national capacities for the sound management of chemicals.

The **Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC)** was established in 1995 by UNEP, ILO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, WHO, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Participating Organizations), following recommendations made by the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development to strengthen cooperation and increase coordination in the field of chemical safety. The purpose of the IOMC is to promote coordination of the policies and activities pursued by the Participating Organizations, jointly or separately, to achieve the sound management of chemicals in relation to human health and the environment.

WHO Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

Principles and methods for assessing autoimmunity associated with exposure to chemicals.

(Environmental health criteria ; 236)

1.Autoimmunity. 2.Autoimmune diseases - diagnosis. 3.Organic chemicals - adverse effects. 4.Inorganic chemicals - adverse effects. 5.Environmental exposure. I.World Health Organization. II.Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals. III.Series.

ISBN 92 4 157236 1

(NLM classification: WD 305)

ISBN 978 92 4 157236 1

ISSN 0250-863X

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This document was technically and linguistically edited by Marla Sheffer, Ottawa, Canada, and printed by Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Stuttgart, Germany.

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