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Public Affairs and Communication Policy

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) is a private, not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization whose members are industrial hygienists and other occupational health and safety professionals dedicated to promoting health and safety within the workplace. The ACGIH core purpose is “to advance occupational and environmental health.” As a scientific organization, ACGIH has established technical committees that review existing scientific information. ACGIH publishes guidelines known as Threshold Limit Values (TLVs) and Biological Exposure Indices (BEIs) for use by industrial hygienists in making decisions regarding safe levels of exposure to various chemical and physical agents found in the workplace. In addition to the TLVs and BEIs, ACGIH develops and publishes professional practice guidelines, and develops and delivers educational events that support development and application of those practice guidelines.

Taking Public Positions

Historically, ACGIH as an organization has not taken formal positions on public or occupational health issues. ACGIH, through its technical committees, does provide scientific and technical expertise, which may be used by organizations or individuals developing consensus standards, occupational health legislation or regulations, and public or occupational health policy. ACGIH’s policy on taking public positions is as follows:

Consensus Standards

As an organization, ACGIH does not send representatives to serve as committee members in the development of consensus standards. ACGIH TLVs and BEIs are guidelines only and are not established using a consensus standard setting process. However, with specific authorization from the ACGIH Board of Directors, ACGIH technical committees may in special and limited cases review and provide technical comments on consensus standards. All such reviews must be coordinated by and routed through the ACGIH Headquarters office. ACGIH members who serve on other consensus standard setting committees or participate in their proceedings should indicate that the opinions being expressed are theirs and do not represent the opinions of ACGIH.

Regulations

ACGIH does not develop occupational health standards or regulations. However, ACGIH is aware that in certain instances the TLVs and the BEIs are used as standards by national, state, or local governments. ACGIH does not believe that TLVs and BEIs should be adopted as standards without an analysis of other factors necessary to make appropriate risk management decisions (e.g., control options, technical and economic factors, etc.). To assist ACGIH members, government regulators, and industry groups in understanding the basis and limitations of the TLVs and BEIs when used in a regulatory

context, the ACGIH Board of Directors has adopted a [Statement of Position Regarding the TLVs and the BEIs](#). This statement has been provided to the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and can be provided to other regulatory agencies as appropriate.

Where ACGIH has an adopted TLV, BEI, or other practice guideline with supporting Documentation on an agent or topic that is the subject of rulemaking, with the approval of the ACGIH Board of Directors, ACGIH may submit the Documentation along with the Statement of Position to the rulemaking authority or process. As appropriate, the ACGIH Board of Directors may authorize staff or member(s) of a technical committee to provide technical information to the rulemaking authority or process. ACGIH members may not represent ACGIH at regulatory hearings or in rulemaking activities without written authorization from the ACGIH Board of Directors.

Legislation

ACGIH does not routinely review or comment on proposed legislation and does not engage in lobbying activities. When appropriate, ACGIH may authorize individuals to utilize all or portions of ACGIH technical publications. ACGIH members may not represent ACGIH in legislative processes without written authorization from the Board of Directors.

Communicating with the Media and/or the Public

The ACGIH Board of Directors designates the Executive Director and the Chair of the ACGIH Board of Directors as the Public Information Officers (PIOs) for ACGIH. All media or public requests for information shall be directed to the Executive Director or his/her designee. ACGIH staff or volunteers should not speak with the media unless they have been specifically authorized to do so by the Executive Director or the Chair of ACGIH.

Committee Communications

Committee members are not authorized to communicate with stakeholders about TLVs, BEIs, and other ACGIH guidelines that are under development. All such communication should come through the ACGIH Science Group.

Committee members are not authorized to speak as representatives of ACGIH about ACGIH and/or the TLVs, BEIs, and other ACGIH guidelines at scientific meetings, symposia, etc. without consent from ACGIH. If a Committee member wishes to speak at such an event, the Committee member should inform his or her Committee Chair and the ACGIH Staff Liaison to the Committee. The Chair or Staff Liaison will bring the matter to the Executive Director and/or Chair of ACGIH for authorization. Committee members, acting in an individual capacity, are free to share their personal and professional opinions about ACGIH, TLVs or the TLV process. When doing so they should indicate that the opinions being expressed are theirs and do not necessarily represent the opinions of ACGIH.

All correspondence and exchange of information between ACGIH and other entities must be coordinated through the ACGIH Headquarters office.