SUPERFUND CHEMICAL DATA MATRIX METHODOLOGY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Superfund Chemical Data Matrix (SCDM) is a database containing factor values and benchmark values used for applying the Hazard Ranking System (HRS; 40 CFR Part 300 Appendix A, 55 *FR* 51583) to evaluate potential National Priorities List (NPL) sites. The HRS assigns factor values for toxicity, gas migration potential, gas and ground water mobility, surface water persistence, and bioaccumulation potential. These assignments are based on the physical, chemical, ecological, toxicological, and radiological properties of hazardous substances present at a site. Hazardous substances, as defined for HRS purposes, includes both hazardous substances referenced in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) section 101(14), which are substances specifically listed under other federal laws and are known as "CERCLA hazardous substances," and "pollutants or contaminants" as defined in CERCLA itself in section 101(33).

SCDM contains HRS factor values and benchmarks for those hazardous substances frequently found at sites that are evaluated using the HRS. SCDM also contains the physical, chemical, toxicological, and radiological input data used to calculate the factors and benchmarks. The input data presented in SCDM are taken directly from peer reviewed, generally accepted literature sources and databases and/or EPA developed literature sources and databases; or are calculated using procedures set forth by EPA and in the HRS. Further HRS procedures are then applied to the input data to determine a factor value or benchmark. The HRS also assigns extra weight to targets with exposure levels to hazardous substances that are at or above benchmarks. These benchmarks include both risk-based screening concentrations and concentrations specified in regulatory limits for the hazardous substances present at a site for a particular migration pathway.

Chapter 2.0, *Data Selection Methodology*, of this document explains how data are selected and prioritized into a hierarchy for assigning SCDM values. Chapter 3.0, *Calculations in SCDM*, describes how some types of data (i.e., volatilization half-lives, distribution coefficients, and screening concentrations) are internally calculated using data in SCDM and methodologies from published literature or regulatory guidance documents. Chapter 4.0, *Chemical Data, Factor Values, and Benchmarks*, describes how SCDM data, HRS factor values, and benchmark values are presented. The factor values and benchmark values are listed, substance by substance, in Appendix A. Appendix B contains the HRS factor values and benchmark tables (organized by pathway) for both nonradiological hazardous substances and radionuclides. Please note that *National Recommended Water Quality Criteria* (*NRWQC)* Chronic Criteria Continuous Concentration (CCC) and Acute Criteria Maximum Concentration (CMC) values have endnotes associated with them listed at the end of Appendix B. Appendix C contains a cross-reference index of substance name synonyms.