

AMBIENT SURFACE WATER QUALITY
STANDARDS DOCUMENTATION

CHEMICAL: Butyl benzyl phthalate

VALUE(S) ADDED

8-08-83

CAS NO.(s): 85-68-7

FACT SHEET REVISED

9-6-85

BASIS (Human/Aquatic): Human

VALUE(S) REMOVED

WATER CLASSIFICATION: AA; AA-s; A; A-s

STANDARD: 50 ug/l

Note E

REMARKS:

SUMMARY INFORMATION:

Butyl benzyl phthalate is a member of a class of compounds called phthalates (esters of 1,2-benzene dicarboxylic acid) which are used widely as plasticizers and are frequently found in the environment.

Available toxicity information on this compound has been reviewed.^{1,2,3} Phthalate esters have been found to have a very low order of acute toxicity when administered orally to animals.⁴ Insufficient data exist upon which to calculate a guideline based on chronic toxicity or aesthetic characteristics. This compound was not oncogenic in mice or male rats in an NTP-sponsored bioassay but an increased incidence of leukemia in female rats may have been related to its administration.⁵ The NTP, however, has decided to retest this compound in rats. The standard may be modified once the results of the study are available. The National Toxicology Program has established a comprehensive program to evaluate the chronic toxic potentials of phthalates.

STANDARD DERIVATION

Inadequate data base for this chemical precludes the use of any derivation outlined in Section 701.3 through 701.7. Therefore, the general guideline of 50 ug/l is recommended as a standard.

REFERENCES:

- (1) USEPA, 1980, Ambient Water Quality Criteria Document for Phthalate Esters, PB81-117780.
- (2) Autian, J., 1973, Environmental Health Perspectives, 3-26.
- (3) USEPA, 1983, Phthalate Esters.
- (4) Phthalic Acid Esters, 1980, Health and Welfare Canada, 80-EHD-62.
- (5) NTP, 1982, Carcinogenesis bioassay of Butyl-Benzyl Phthalates, PB82-118398.

SEP - 1985

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