

Mandate for the Ad Hoc Environmental Exposure Working Group (AHEE)

Revised mandates agreed at BPC-24 (6 March 2018)

1. Introduction and objectives

The Ad Hoc Environmental Exposure Working Group (AHEE) shall operate in a manner that is efficient and delivers its output in accordance with BPC working procedures to ensure the output is delivered in a timely manner. The AHEE shall report to the BPC.

In order for the AHEE to be efficient and effective, the members are expected to carry out work on a continuous basis throughout the year by physical meetings, electronic exchanges or virtual meetings.

The AHEE will consist of members without distinction between core members and flexible members. The Chair of the AHEE will be from the Agency.

The BPC Rules of Procedure (RoPs) and the ECHA Conflicts of Interest policy apply to the AHEE.

All members of the Ad hoc Working Groups of the Biocidal Products Committee (BPC), their advisers and invited experts participating in the meeting shall declare at each meeting any interest which could be considered to be prejudicial to their independence with respect to any point on the agenda.

The Eligibility Guidelines for members of ECHA bodies (MB/45/2013 final¹) shall apply by analogy to all members of Working Groups of the BPC that are appointed on a long-term basis.

2. Scope

The AHEE will focus on matters related to the environmental exposure assessment of biocides. It will support the BPC and its WGs (especially the Environment WG) during the scientific and technical peer review process in relation to the following, where appropriate:

- Approval, renewal and review of biocidal active substances
- Inclusion of biocidal active substances into Annex I of the BPR
- Applications for Union authorisation, as well as the renewal, cancellation and amendments of these
- Technical or scientific matters in relation to mutual recognition
- Any other questions that arise from the operation of BPR in relation to environmental exposure assessment of biocides

¹ http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/13555/final_mb_45_2013_eligibility_crit_guid_en.pdf.

In particular, the work of the AHEE will cover the following areas:

- Technical, scientific and conception-related matters in relation to environmental exposure assessment of biocides
- Generic or specific methodological issues in relation to environmental exposure assessment of biocides
- Harmonisation of the approach for assessing environmental exposure to biocides
- Integration and harmonisation of the approach followed under the biocides regime with other legislative frameworks across the EU, where appropriate (for example, REACH and plant protection products)
- Implementation of the strategies to assess environmental exposure to biocides (for example, development of the single emission scenarios or PT-specific Emission Scenario Documents (ESD) and revision or amendment of existing ESDs)
- Support in the implementation of the IT tools (e.g. EUSES) used to assess environmental risk to biocides, where appropriate
- Identification of the needs to revise the existing guidance documents on environmental exposure to biocidal products and contribution to the revision, where appropriate

3. Output and reporting

The members of the AHEE will be nominated for a three year term and will report to the BPC.

The deliverables of the AHEE are:

A) New ESDs or other environmental exposure assessment related documents (e.g. scientific or technical recommendations that may be integrated later into guidance) as well as revisions and amendments of existing ESDs (e.g. addition of new emission scenarios or change of default values) - both noted as "deliverables" in the following.

B) Draft guidance documents.

Ad A) The deliverables can be developed by the AHEE when issues concerning environmental exposure related matters require a more in depth investigation. They will not be legally binding documents, but will provide guidelines toward a harmonised approach to biocide exposure assessment to both applicants and Member States Competent Authorities.

In general, no further agreement/adoption of the deliverables is needed by the Environment WG. Exempted are the following items which should stay in the only remit of the Environment WG:

- New ESDs for a product type;
- Clarifications on how to interpret existing guidance or guidance related documents.

The AHEE could be consulted upon request of the Environment WG or of the ECHA dossier manager in cooperation with the evaluating Competent Authority during the evaluation phase of an active substance or a Union authorisation application. The Group could also be consulted during an ad hoc follow up of the WG discussion. The Chair of the AHEE will be in charge of referring the identified issues to the group and of prioritising and organising the consultations. The AHEE can assign expert groups with a limited number of AHEE members to work on

specific items of a given topic under consideration by the AHEE. The conclusions of the expert groups should be regarded only as advice to the AHEE. The AHEE will decide whether or not to follow these conclusions or include them in an AHEE deliverable.

The AHEE will prepare the deliverables within the agreed timelines and shall for relevant cases respect the applicable time frames of the BPC working procedures. The agreed deliverables, except those on individual dossiers, will be made available on a dedicated webpage on the ECHA website.

In case the AHEE cannot come to an agreement on a specific item, it will be forwarded to the Environment WG.

Ad B) Environmental exposure related parts of guidance documents (e.g. section 2 of Vol. IV Part B+C) can be developed by the AHEE upon request of the Environment WG. In this case, the AHEE will be part of the so called Partner Expert Group (PEG) and the subsequent procedure follows the ECHA consultation procedure on guidance.

In addition, to the deliverables noted under point A) and B), upon request from the Environment WG, the AHEE can provide advice on scientific questions related to case specific discussions in the Environment WG.

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