

CONTENTS

NOTE TO THE READER	1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	3
PREAMBLE.....	7
1. Background.....	9
2. Objective and Scope	9
3. Selection of Topics for Monographs	10
4. Data for Monographs	11
5. The Working Group	11
6. Working Procedures	11
7. Exposure Data.....	12
8. Studies of Cancer in Humans	14
9. Studies of Cancer in Experimental Animals.....	17
10. Other Data Relevant to an Evaluation of Carcinogenicity and its Mechanisms	20
11. Summary of Data Reported	22
12. Evaluation	23
13. References.....	28
GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SUBSTANCES CONSIDERED	33
MONOGRAPH ON INORGANIC AND ORGANIC LEAD COMPOUNDS	37
1. Exposure Data.....	39
1.1 Chemical and physical data	39
1.1.1 Nomenclature, synonyms, trade names, molecular formulae, chemical and physical properties	39
1.1.2 Technical products and impurities	46
1.2 Production	48
1.2.1 The ores and their preparation	48
1.2.2 Smelting	48
(a) Two-stage processes	48
(b) Direct smelting processes	50
1.2.3 Hydrometallurgical processes	51
1.2.4 Primary lead refining	51
(a) Pyrometallurgical processes	53
(i) Removal of antimony, arsenic and tin	53
(ii) Removal of silver and gold	53

	(iii) Removal of zinc	53
	(iv) Removal of bismuth	53
	(b) Electrolytic processes	54
1.2.5	Secondary lead production.....	54
	(a) Secondary lead smelting	54
	(b) Secondary lead refining.....	56
1.2.6	Lead production by compound and country	56
1.3	Use	56
1.3.1	Lead-acid batteries.....	60
1.3.2	Lead sheet.....	67
1.3.3	Lead pipes	67
1.3.4	Cable sheathing	68
1.3.5	Lead alloys	68
	(a) Lead-antimony alloys	68
	(b) Solders.....	68
	(c) Lead for radiation shielding	69
	(d) Other uses of lead alloys.....	69
1.3.6	Lead pigments and compounds	69
	(a) Lead pigments	70
	(b) Lead stabilizers for polyvinyl chloride	70
	(c) Lead in glass	70
	(d) Lead for ceramics	71
1.3.7	Gasoline additives	71
1.3.8	Miscellaneous uses.....	72
1.4	Occurrence	73
1.4.1	Environmental occurrence	73
	(a) Natural occurrence	74
	(b) Air and dust.....	74
	(c) Water	84
	(d) Sediments	90
	(e) Soil	91
	(f) Lead in gasoline	98
	(g) Lead in paint	102
	(h) Food.....	103
	(i) Contamination of livestock	104
	(ii) Contamination from food preparation, storage and tableware	112
	(iii) Alcoholic beverages	116
	(iv) Fish and seafood	117
	(v) Rice and cereals	117
	(vi) Daily intake through food.....	118
	(i) Plants and fertilizers	118
	Phytoremediation	120

(j) Others	121
(i) Traditional medicine.....	121
(ii) Cosmetics	123
(iii) Ammunition	124
(iv) Miscellaneous	124
(k) Blood lead concentrations from specific sources of exposure	124
1.4.2 Exposure of the general population	124
(a) Adults	127
(b) Pregnant women and neonates	138
(c) Children	139
1.4.3 Occupational exposure	142
(a) Lead-acid battery workers	165
(b) Workers in mining and primary smelting	165
(c) Workers in secondary smelting	165
(d) Workers in leaded-glass manufacturing	165
(e) Workers in welding/soldering	165
(f) Professional drivers and traffic controllers	166
(g) Firing-range instructors.....	166
(h) Other occupational exposures	166
1.5 Analysis.....	167
1.5.1 Environmental samples	167
Use of lead isotope ratios in source attribution and apportionment.....	169
1.5.2 Biological indicators of lead contamination in soil and water	170
1.5.3 Biological samples	170
(a) Analysis in hard tissues.....	171
(i) Bone	171
(ii) Teeth	171
(iii) Hair and nails	171
(b) Analysis in soft tissues and body fluids	172
(i) Blood	172
(ii) Urine	173
(iii) Placenta.....	173
(iv) Sweat and saliva	173
1.5.4 Biomarkers of lead exposure	174
(a) Biomarkers related to haeme biosynthesis	174
(i) PBGS (ALAD) activity in blood	174
(ii) ALA in urine and plasma	175
(iii) Zinc protoporphyrin in blood	175
(b) Biomarkers related to pyrimidine nucleotide metabolism ..	176
(c) Other biomarkers.....	176
1.6 Regulations and guidelines	177

2.	Studies of Cancer in Humans	183
2.1	Studies among specific occupational groups	183
2.1.1	Battery manufacturing workers	183
2.1.2	Lead smelter workers	201
2.1.3	Lead chromate pigment production	205
2.1.4	Workers in glass production.....	206
(a)	Cohort studies	206
(b)	Case-control studies	207
2.1.5	Studies in miners	207
2.1.6	Newspaper printers.....	208
2.1.7	Exposure to organic lead	209
2.1.8	Workers biologically monitored for blood lead concentrations....	211
2.1.9	Register linkage studies	213
2.1.10	Population-based case-control studies.....	214
(a)	Multiple cancer sites	214
(b)	Stomach.....	214
(c)	Kidney	215
(d)	Brain and nervous system	215
(e)	Other primary sites	216
2.1.11	Meta-analyses.....	217
2.2	Studies based on general population (environmental) exposures	219
2.2.1	Cohort studies.....	219
2.2.2	Cohort studies of the general population based on blood lead concentrations.....	220
2.2.3	Case-control studies.....	221
2.3	Studies on parental exposure and childhood cancer.....	222
2.3.1	Cohort studies.....	222
2.3.2	Case-control studies.....	223
(a)	Wilms' tumour.....	223
(b)	Other cancer sites	224
3.	Studies of Cancer in Experimental Animals	225
3.1	Lead acetate	225
3.1.1	Mouse	225
(a)	Oral administration	225
(b)	Pre- and perinatal administration	226
(c)	Administration with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis.....	226
3.1.2	Rat	227
(a)	Oral administration	227
(b)	Subcutaneous administration.....	230
(c)	Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis.....	230
3.1.3	Dog	232
3.1.4	Monkey.....	232

3.2	Lead subacetate	232
3.2.1	Mouse	232
(a)	Oral administration	232
(b)	Intraperitoneal administration	233
(c)	Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis.....	234
3.2.2	Rat	235
(a)	Oral administration	235
(b)	Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis.....	237
3.2.3	Hamster	239
3.2.4	Rabbit	239
3.3	Lead carbonate	239
3.3.1	Rat	239
	Oral administration.....	239
3.4	Lead nitrate	240
3.4.1	Mouse	240
	Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis	240
3.4.2	Rat	240
(a)	Oral administration	240
(b)	Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers of carcinogenesis.....	240
3.5	Lead powder	241
3.5.1	Rat	241
(a)	Oral administration	241
(b)	Intramuscular administration.....	241
(c)	Intrarenal administration	241
3.6	Lead oxide.....	242
3.6.1	Rat	242
	Inhalation exposure	242
3.6.2	Hamster	242
	Intratracheal administration	242
3.7	Lead naphthenate	243
3.7.1	Mouse	243
	Skin application	243
3.8	Lead chromate.....	243
3.8.1	Mouse	243
	Intramuscular administration	243
3.8.2	Rat	244
(a)	Subcutaneous injection	244
(b)	Intramuscular administration.....	244
(c)	Intrapleural administration	244
(d)	Intrabronchial administration	245

3.8.3	Guinea-pig	245
	Intratracheal administration	245
3.8.4	Rabbit	246
	Intratracheal administration	246
3.9	Lead phosphate	246
3.9.1	Rat	246
	(a) Subcutaneous injection	246
	(b) Subcutaneous and intraperitoneal administration combined	247
3.10	Lead arsenate	247
3.10.1	Rat	247
	(a) Oral administration	247
	(b) Administration of lead with known carcinogens or modifiers	248
3.11	Tetraethyl lead.....	248
3.11.1	Mouse.....	248
	Subcutaneous administration	248
4.	Other Data Relevant to an Evaluation of Carcinogenicity and its Mechanisms	249
4.1	Absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion	249
4.1.1	Inorganic lead compounds	249
	(a) Humans	249
	(i) Absorption	249
	(ii) Distribution.....	255
	(iii) Metabolism.....	263
	(iv) Excretion.....	263
	(v) Mobilization of lead	264
	(b) Animals	268
	(i) Absorption	268
	(ii) Distribution.....	276
	(iii) Excretion.....	279
	(c) Experimental systems <i>in vitro</i>	281
4.1.2	Organic lead compounds	281
	(a) Humans	282
	(i) Absorption	282
	(ii) Distribution.....	282
	(iii) Metabolism.....	282
	(iv) Excretion.....	283
	(b) Animals	283
	(i) Absorption	283
	(ii) Distribution.....	283
	(iii) Metabolism.....	283
	(iv) Excretion.....	284
	(c) Experimental systems <i>in vitro</i>	284

4.2	Toxic effects	285
4.2.1	Overt symptoms of lead intoxication.....	285
4.2.2	Effects on haeme-containing systems	286
(a)	Humans	286
(i)	Inhibition of ALAD by lead	288
(ii)	ALAD gene polymorphism	288
(iii)	Other gene polymorphisms	289
(iv)	Lead and coproporphyrins	290
(v)	Lead and free erythroprotoporphyrin	290
(vi)	Lead and pyrimidine 5'-nucleotidase	291
(vii)	Lead and indicators of anaemia	291
(viii)	Lead and other haeme-containing systems	292
(b)	Animal studies.....	292
(c)	Experimental systems <i>in vitro</i>	293
4.2.3	Nephrotoxicity	293
(a)	Humans	298
(i)	General population	298
(ii)	Occupational exposure	298
(iii)	Clinical studies	299
(b)	Animal studies.....	300
4.2.4	Neurological and neurotoxic effects	302
(a)	Humans	302
(i)	Neurological symptoms of high-level exposure to lead	302
(ii)	Impact on hearing induced by low-level exposure to lead	304
(iii)	Visual functions affected by low-level exposure to lead	305
(iv)	Peripheral nervous functions affected by low-level exposure to lead	305
(v)	Neurotoxicity of lead in children	307
	Cross-sectional studies	307
	Prospective studies	311
	Recent studies	312
	Lead and antisocial behaviour	313
(vi)	Other effects	314
(vii)	Neurobehavioural effects of organic lead.....	315
(b)	Experimental systems	315
(i)	In-vivo studies with inorganic lead	315
	Effects on learning	316
	Effects on visual function	316
	Effects on hearing.....	317
	Effects on nerve conduction velocity	317
	Effects on motor function and aggressive behaviour	317

	Effects on neurochemical parameters	318
	(ii) In-vivo studies with organic lead	320
	(iii) In-vitro studies	320
4.2.5	Cardiovascular toxicity	321
	(a) Humans	321
	(i) Blood lead concentrations and blood pressure	321
	General population	321
	Occupational exposure and lead poisoning	321
	(ii) Blood pressure and renal function	322
	(iii) Coronary risk of lead exposure	322
	(b) Experimental systems	322
	(i) Cardiovascular effects of lead	322
	(ii) Studies on the etiology of lead-induced hypertension	323
4.2.6	Immunological effects	323
	(a) Humans	324
	Studies in exposed workers	324
	(b) Experimental systems	325
4.2.7	Other toxic effects	328
	(a) Lead-induced mitogenesis	328
	(b) Effects on regulatory proteins	330
	(c) Apoptosis	332
	(i) In-vivo studies	332
	(ii) In-vitro studies	333
	(d) Effects on hepatic enzymes	334
	(e) Effects on endocrine function	335
	(i) Human studies	335
	(ii) In-vitro study	336
4.3	Effects on reproduction	337
4.3.1	Humans	338
	(a) Male fertility	338
	(b) Effects of lead during pregnancy	341
	(c) Effects of lead on abortion	342
	(d) Effects on stature and growth	344
4.3.2	Animal studies	345
	(a) Male fertility	345
	(b) Effects on pregnancy, fertility and growth and development in animals	347
4.4	Genetic and related effects	348
4.4.1	Human studies	348
4.4.2	Effects in animals	354
4.4.3	Mammalian cells <i>in vitro</i>	358
4.4.4	Prokaryotic systems	363
4.4.5	Yeast and plants	363
4.4.6	Cell-free systems	363

4.5	Mechanistic considerations.....	363
4.5.1	Introduction	363
4.5.2	Toxicokinetics and metabolism of lead	364
(a)	Inorganic lead	364
(i)	Absorption	364
(ii)	Distribution	364
(iii)	Excretion.....	365
(b)	Organic lead	365
(i)	Absorption	365
(ii)	Distribution and metabolism	365
(iii)	Excretion.....	366
4.5.3	Toxicodynamics and mode of action of lead	366
(a)	Genotoxic mechanisms	366
	Dose considerations.....	367
(b)	Cell proliferation by mitogenic and regenerative mechanisms	367
(c)	Molecular mechanisms of action	369
5.	Summary of Data Reported and Evaluation.....	370
5.1	Exposure data	370
5.2	Human carcinogenicity data	371
5.3	Animal carcinogenicity data	372
5.4	Other relevant data	374
5.5	Evaluation	377
6.	References.....	378
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS VOLUME	469
	CUMULATIVE INDEX TO THE <i>MONOGRAPHS</i> SERIES	473

NOTE TO THE READER

The term ‘carcinogenic risk’ in the *IARC Monographs* series is taken to mean the probability that exposure to an agent will lead to cancer in humans.

Inclusion of an agent in the *Monographs* does not imply that it is a carcinogen, only that the published data have been examined. Equally, the fact that an agent has not yet been evaluated in a monograph does not mean that it is not carcinogenic.

The evaluations of carcinogenic risk are made by international working groups of independent scientists and are qualitative in nature. No recommendation is given for regulation or legislation.

Anyone who is aware of published data that may alter the evaluation of the carcinogenic risk of an agent to humans is encouraged to make this information available to the Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation Group, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 150 cours Albert Thomas, 69372 Lyon Cedex 08, France, in order that the agent may be considered for re-evaluation by a future Working Group.

Although every effort is made to prepare the monographs as accurately as possible, mistakes may occur. Readers are requested to communicate any errors to the Carcinogen Identification and Evaluation Group, so that corrections can be reported in future volumes.