inhalation exposure, and to high metabolic activity in certain areas of the forestomach, which results in high local concentrations of the toxic metabolite, 2-butoxyacetic acid.

Reproductive and developmental effects

In developmental toxicity studies in rats and mice that involved oral and inhalation exposure to 2-butoxyethanol, embryotoxic or fetotoxic effects were observed at doses or concentrations similar to or greater than those which induced toxicity (including haematological effects) in the dams. Alterations in haematological parameters were also observed in fetuses of exposed dams. Effects on reproductive ability and reproductive organs were also only observed at doses or concentrations of 2-butoxyethanol much greater than those associated with haematological effects.

Genetic and related effects

The available data on 2-butoxyethanol support the concept that the compound itself exhibits no appreciable genotoxicity. The oxidative metabolite, 2-butoxyacetaldehyde, appears to have a weak capacity to cause genotoxic effects *in vitro*, largely at the chromosomal level. The product of further oxidation, 2-butoxyacetic acid, does not appear to be genotoxic.

5.5 Evaluation

There is *inadequate evidence* in humans for the carcinogenicity of 2-butoxyethanol.

There is *limited evidence* in experimental animals for the carcinogenicity of 2-butoxyethanol.

Overall evaluation

2-Butoxyethanol is *not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans (Group 3)*.

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