



NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides  
Grupo de Trabajo Técnico del TLCAN sobre Plaguicidas  
Groupe de travail technique de l'ALENA sur les pesticides

## PROJECT SHEET

**SUBCOMMITTEE:** Regulatory Capacity Building

**PROJECT TITLE:** **Evaluation Guidance for Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) Testing**

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**INITIATION:** June 1998

**UPDATE:** November 12, 2003

**GOAL:** The development of guidance to harmonize Canadian and U.S. developmental neurotoxicity study Data Evaluation Reports (DERs).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. and Canada will work together to expand guidance for toxicologists on the evaluation and interpretation of developmental neurotoxicity study data. This will be accomplished through: (1) joint participation in an ILSI/RSI project on Neurodevelopmental Endpoints for Human Health Risk Assessment; and (2) the development of an interim Health Effects Division (HED) Standard Evaluation Procedure for the evaluation of neurobehavioral and neuropathological endpoints from developmental neurotoxicity studies.

**MILESTONES:** Interim HED Standard Evaluation Procedure (SEP), the drafting of which has been developed with Canada - December '03

ILSI/RSI working groups; milestones for project output will be established - Feb/March '04

Joint review of SEP and finalization - April '04

## **BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:**

As part of the effort to harmonize HED and PMRA Data Evaluation Reports (DERs), guidance was jointly developed for the evaluation of Developmental Neurotoxicity (DNT) studies. This guidance was incorporated into the DNT DER format, thus providing toxicology reviewers with readily available information to utilize in the completion of DNT study reviews. The guidance was developed jointly by the health evaluation divisions at EPA and PMRA. Developing a common guidance document is important, both to the U.S. and Canadian regulatory agencies, and to the pesticide registrants. The health evaluation divisions at EPA and PMRA conduct joint reviews and risk assessments; the registrants must satisfy the regulatory requirements of both countries. Having harmonized SEP's will be beneficial to all as the two governmental bodies will be interpreting the DNT data using the same standard.

The guidance addresses the methods and results for all endpoints assessed in the DNT study, and provides example language, instructions for customizing the DER to the study being reviewed, descriptions of important aspects of typical study conduct that should be included in the DER, descriptions of common methodological variants and their potential impact on the study results, helpful hints on data presentation, and background information on the typical ontogeny of functional endpoints assessed in the DNT study.