Substance Profile for The Challenge

Ethanol, 2-methoxy-, acetate (2-Methoxyethanol acetate) CAS RN 110-49-6

Environment Canada Health Canada

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Introduction

The Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 [CEPA 1999] (Canada 1999) required the Minister of Health and Minister of the Environment to categorize the approximately 23 000 substances on the Domestic Substances List (DSL). Categorization involved identifying those substances on the DSL that are a) considered to be persistent (P) and/or bioaccumulative (B), based on criteria set out in the Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations (Government of Canada 2000), and "inherently toxic" (iT) to humans or other organisms, or b) that present, to individuals in Canada, the greatest potential for exposure (GPE).

Further to this activity, the Act requires the Minister of the Environment and the Minister of Health to conduct screening assessments of substances that meet the categorization criteria. A screening assessment involves a scientific evaluation of available information for a substance to determine whether the substance meets the criteria set out in section 64 of CEPA 1999. Based on the results of a screening assessment, the Ministers can propose taking no further action with respect to the substance, adding the substance to the Priority Substances List (PSL) for further assessment or recommending the addition of the substance to the List of Toxic Substances in Schedule 1 of CEPA 1999 and, where applicable, the implementation of virtual elimination of releases to the environment.

A number of substances have been identified by the Ministers as high priorities for action based on the information obtained through the categorization process. This includes substances:

- that were found to meet all of the ecological categorization criteria, including
 persistence, bioaccumulation potential and inherent toxicity to aquatic organisms
 (PBiT), and that are known to be in commerce, or of commercial interest, in
 Canada, and/or
- that were found either to meet the categorization criteria for GPE or to present an intermediate potential for exposure (IPE), and were identified as posing a high hazard to human health based on available evidence on carcinogenicity, genotoxicity, developmental toxicity or reproductive toxicity.

Based on a consideration of the ecological and/or human health concerns associated with these substances, and the requirement under section 76.1 of CEPA 1999 for the Ministers to apply a weight of evidence approach and the precautionary principle when conducting and interpreting the results of an assessment, sufficient data are currently available to conclude whether these substances meet the criteria under section 64 of CEPA 1999.

As such, the Ministers have issued a Challenge to industry and other interested stakeholders through publication in Canada Gazette Part I December 9, 2006 (Environment Canada and Health Canada 2006) to submit, within the timelines stated in the Challenge section of this document, specific information that may be used to inform

risk assessment and to develop and benchmark best practices for risk management and product stewardship.

The substance Ethanol, 2-methoxy-, acetate was identified as a high priority for action as it was determined to be of intermediate potential for exposure to individuals in Canada and is considered to present a high hazard to human health. The technical human health and ecological information, that formed the basis for concern associated with this substance, is presented in this document.

The Challenge

Respecting direction under section 76.1 of CEPA 1999, and in the absence of additional relevant information as a result of this Challenge, the Ministers are predisposed to conclude, based on a screening assessment, that this substance satisfies the definition of toxic under section 64 of CEPA 1999. As such, the Ministers are prepared to then recommend to the Governor in Council that this substance be added to the List of Toxic Substances in Schedule 1 of CEPA 1999, with the intent of initiating the development of risk management measures taking into account socio-economic considerations.

If it is determined that the substance meets the virtual elimination criteria in subsection 77(4) of CEPA 1999, then subsequent risk management activities will be based on the objective of eliminating the release of any measurable quantity of the substance to the environment. In the absence of further information on existing management practices for a substance, actions will be proposed based on the assumption of worst-case practices. The management actions being considered for such substances at this time include prohibition through regulations, of the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale and import of this substance, except for those activities controlled under the *Pest Control Products Act* (Canada 2002) and/or the *Food and Drugs Act* (Canada 1985).

Exceptionally, should no information be identified to indicate that this substance is in commerce in Canada, the Ministers will conclude, based on a screening assessment, that this substance does not satisfy the definition of toxic under section 64 of CEPA 1999. However, given the properties of this substance, there is concern that new activities for the substance that have not been identified or assessed under CEPA 1999 could lead to the substance meeting the criteria set out in section 64 of the Act. Therefore it would be recommended that this substance be subject to the Significant New Activity provisions specified under subsection 81(3) of the Act, to ensure that any new manufacture, import or use of this substance in quantities greater than 100 kg/year is notified, and that ecological and human health risk assessments are conducted as specified in section 83 of the Act prior to the substance being introduced into Canada.

Section 71 Notice

Under the Challenge, information deemed necessary for improved decision making may be gathered by the Minister of Environment using section 71 of CEPA 1999. This information may be used for the purpose of assessing whether a substance is toxic or is capable of becoming toxic as defined under section 64 of CEPA 1999, or for the purpose of assessing whether to control, or the manner in which to control a substance.

The information mandated through the notices may relate to, among other things; quantity of the substance imported, manufactured, used, or released, concentrations, suppliers, customers, as well as types of uses of the substance.

Copies of the section 71 notice and guidance on how to comply with it are available from the Government of Canada Chemicals website (www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca), or from the contact provided below.

Opportunity to Submit Additional Information to Inform Screening Assessment

The Ministers of Health and Environment are inviting the submission of additional information for consideration during screening assessment of this substance. Data of the types described in the following paragraphs are considered most relevant, although other submitted information will be considered.

Data on the persistence, bioaccumulation, and potential for toxicity of the substance to organisms in different environmental media – Through the categorization exercise, available experimental data were collected up to December 2005. Where acceptable experimental data were not available, Quantitative Structure Activity Relationships (QSARs) or read-across data were used to fill the data gaps. Since experimental data are preferred, interested parties have an opportunity to provide new or additional relevant experimental study information on the persistence, bioaccumulation, and potential for toxicity of this substance to organisms in different environmental media (air, water, sediment, soil), or on the physical/chemical properties values that were used as input into the QSAR models.). Efforts should focus on providing data for the endpoints for which good quality experimental data do not already exist, as demonstrated by the information summarized in the "Ecological Information" or "Physical/Chemical Properties" sections of this document. As submitted data will be evaluated for completeness and robustness, it is recommended that stakeholders follow the guidance for test protocols and alternative approaches for test data, as described in Section 8 of the "Guidelines for the Notification and Testing of New Substances: Chemicals & Polymers" (Government of Canada 2006).

Data on the toxicity of the substance to human health - Through the categorization exercise, the high health priorities for action were those substances identified by a Simple Hazard tool, which identified a potential high health hazard on the basis of classifications for cancer, genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity or developmental toxicity. The hazard classifications used were those developed by national or international agencies in which large numbers of substances have been classified for endpoint-specific hazard based on original review and critical evaluation of data, assessments of weight of evidence and extensive peer review. Interested parties have an opportunity to provide new or additional relevant experimental study information on the toxicity of the substance to human health which could inform the screening assessment.

Information submitted in response to the section 71 Notice or as additional information on current uses and existing control measures (see following section) will also be considered when characterizing exposure potential.

Responses to this part of the Challenge for this substance should be received at the address provided below by the date indicated on the Government of Canada Chemicals website (www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca).

Opportunity to Submit Additional Information on Current Uses and Existing Control Measures to Inform the Risk Management Approach for this Substance

The Ministers of Health and Environment are inviting the submission of additional information that is deemed beneficial by interested stakeholders, relating to the extent and nature of the management/stewardship of substances listed under the Challenge.

Organizations that may be interested in submitting additional information in response to this invitation include those that manufacture, import, export or use this substance whether alone, in a mixture, in a product or in a manufactured item.

Additional information is being invited in the following areas:

- Import, manufacture and use quantities
- Substance and product use details
- Releases to the environment and spill management
- Current and potential risk management and product stewardship actions
- Existing legislative or regulatory programs controlling/managing the substance
- Information to support the development of a regulatory impact assessment.

A questionnaire is available which provides a detailed template as an example for the submission of this information. Guidance on how to respond to the Challenge questionnaire is also available. Interested stakeholders are invited to provide available additional information, recognizing that not all questions in the questionnaire may be relevant to a particular substance, use, or industrial sector.

Copies of the questionnaire and associated guidance are available from the Government of Canada Chemicals website (www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca), or from the contact provided below.

Responses to this part of the Challenge for this substance should be received at the address provided below by the date indicated on the Government of Canada Chemicals website (www.chemicalsubstanceschimiques.gc.ca).

Request for Documents and Submission of Information

Documents and instructions may be requested from the following contact. Information in response to the above Challenge must be submitted to this address:

DSL Surveys Coordinator Place Vincent Massey, 20th Floor 351 Saint Joseph Boulevard Gatineau QC K1A 0H3 Tel: 1-888-228-0530/819-956-9313

Fax: 1-800-410-4314 / 819-953-4936 Email: DSL.surveyco@ec.gc.ca

Substance Identity

For the purposes of this document, this substance will be referred to as 2-Methoxyethanol acetate.

Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number (CAS RN)	110-49-6		
Inventory names	Ethanol, 2-methoxy, acetate; Acétate de 2-méthoxyéthyle; 2- Methoxyethanol acetate		
Other names	Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate (EGMEA); Ethylene glycol monomethyl ether acetate; Methyl cellosolve acetate; Methoxyethanol acetate; Cellosolve acetate, ethyl; Ethylene glycol methyl ether acetate; 2-MEA; Glycol monomethyl ether acetate; EGMEA; Acetic acid, 2-methoxyethyl ester; beta-Methoxyethyl acetate; Methyl cellosolve acetate; Acetoxy-2-methoxyethane; Methyl glycol monoacetate		
Chemical group	Organic		
Chemical sub-group	Esters		
Chemical formula	$C_5H_{10}O_3$		
Chemical structure			
SMILES	O=C(OCCOC)C		
Molecular mass	118.13 g/mol		

Physical/Chemical Properties

Table 1 contains experimental and modelled physical-chemical properties of 2-methoxyethanol acetate which are relevant to its environmental fate.

Table 1. Physical and chemical properties for 2-methoxyethanol acetate

Property	Туре	Value	Temperature (C°)	Reference
Melting point (°C)	Experimental	-70		SRC PHYSPROP Database 2003
Melting point (°C)	Modelled	-51.09		MPBPWIN v1.41
Boiling point (°C)	Experimental	143		SRC PHYSPROP Database 2003
Boiling point (°C)	Modelled	126.68		MPBPWIN v1.41
Vapour pressure (Pa)	Modelled	738.6 (5.54 mm Hg)	25	MPBPWIN v1.41
Henry's Law constant (Pa-m³/mole)	Modelled	2.54 x 10 ⁻² to 2.77 x 10 ⁻¹ (2.503 x10 ⁻⁷ to 2.73 x 10 ⁻⁶ atm-m ³ /mole)	25	EPIWIN v3.12
Log Kow (Octanol-water partition coefficient - dimensionless)	Modelled	0.10	25	KOWWIN v1.67
Log Koc (Organic carbon partition coefficient - dimensionless)	Modelled	0.06	25	PCKOCWIN v1.66
Water solubility (g/L)	Experimental	1000	15 – 25	Yalkowski and Dannenfelser, 1992
Water solubility (g/L)	Modelled	84	25	WSKOWWIN v1.41

Sources and Uses

Information from DSL Nomination (1984-1986)

Quantity in Commerce

The quantity reported to be manufactured, imported or in commerce in Canada during the calendar year 1986 was 111,000 kg.

Number of Notifiers

The number of notifiers for the calendar years 1984-86 was 7.

Use Codes and Description

The following DSL use codes have been identified for the substance:

- 44- Solvent/carrier
- 76- Organic Chemicals, Industrial
- 77- Organic Chemicals, Specialty
- 80- Paint and Coating
- 84- Photographic/Photocopier
- 85- Pigment, Dye and Printing Ink

Potential Uses in Canada

Information on potential uses of 2-methoxyethanol acetate was identified through searches of the available scientific and technical literature.

2-Methoxyethanol acetate is used most commonly as a solvent with an application as a solvent in some glues and adhesives used for bonding floor coverings and waterproof surfaces fitted to household fixtures. It is also used as a solvent in nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate, resins, gums, waxes and oils. 2-Methoxyethanol acetate has been used as a solvent for surface coatings of paints, coatings, varnishes and lacquers for paper and leather (NPI 2005; NLM 2005). It is a solvent component in textile printing, photographic film and silk-screening inks (NLM 2005) and has been used as a component in consumer products including nail polish and dry cleaning treatments (NPI 2005).

Human Health Information

Under the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999* (CEPA 1999), Health Canada undertook to categorize all substances on the Domestic Substances List (DSL) to identify those representing the greatest potential for human exposure (GPE) and those among a subset of substances considered persistent (P) and/or bioaccumulative (B) that are also considered to be "inherently toxic" to humans.

In order to efficiently identify substances that represent the highest priorities for screening assessment from a human health perspective, Health Canada developed and applied a Simple Exposure Tool (SimET) to the DSL to identify those substances that meet the criteria for GPE, Intermediate Potential for Exposure (IPE) or Lowest Potential for Exposure (LPE), and a Simple Hazard Tool (SimHaz) to identify those substances that pose a high or low hazard.

Exposure Information from Health Related Components of DSL Categorization

SimET was developed and used to identify substances on the DSL considered to represent GPE. This approach was based on three lines of evidence: 1) the quantity in commerce in Canada, 2) the number of companies involved in commercial activities in Canada (i.e., number of notifiers), and 3) the consideration by experts of the potential for human exposure based on various use codes. The proposed approach was released for public comment in November 2003 and also enabled designation of substances as presenting an IPE or LPE, based on criteria for quantity and nature of use (Health Canada 2003).

Results of the Application of SimET

2-Methoxyethanol acetate has been determined to be IPE based on a consideration of the DSL Nomination Information listed in the section on Sources and Uses.

Hazard Information from Health Related Components of DSL Categorization

Simple Hazard Tool (SimHaz)

SimHaz is a tool that has been used to identify, among all of the approximately 23 000 substances on the DSL, those considered to present either high or low hazard to human health based on formalized weight of evidence criteria and/or peer review/consensus of experts. This tool has been developed through extensive compilation of hazard classifications of Health Canada and other agencies and consideration of their robustness based on availability of transparent documentation of both process and criteria. Those

substances identified as a potential high health hazard were based on classifications for cancer, genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity or developmental toxicity (Health Canada 2005).

Results of the Application of SimHaz

2-Methoxyethanol acetate is considered to be a potentially high hazard substance based on its classification for developmental and reproductive toxicity by the European Commission

The following classification for developmental toxicity of 2-methoxyethanol acetate is available:

The European Commission has classified 2-methoxyethanol acetate as Category 2 for developmental toxicity (Substance which should be regarded as if it causes developmental toxicity to humans) (European Commission 1993; ESIS 2006).

The following classification for reproductive toxicity of 2-methoxyethanol acetate is available:

The European Commission has classified 2-methoxyethanol acetate as Category 2 for reproductive toxicity (Substance which should be regarded as if it impairs fertility in humans) (European Commission 1993; ESIS 2006).

Uncertainties:

SimET and SimHaz have been developed as robust tools for effectively identifying substances from the DSL that are considered to be human health priorities for further consideration. It is recognized that they do not include a number of elements normally considered in a human health risk assessment such as a comprehensive characterization of exposure and hazard, a comparison of exposure metrics to hazard metrics and a detailed analysis of uncertainties. However, as a result of the combination of the severe hazard properties of this substance as determined in weight of evidence evaluations of other agencies and its potential for exposure (IPE), assessment of the risk to health in Canada is considered a priority.

Ecological Information

Data relevant to an ecological screening assessment were identified in original literature, review documents, and commercial and government databases prior to December 2005. Properties and characteristics may also have been estimated using Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) models.

Releases, Fate and Presence in the Environment

Releases

2-methoxyethanol acetate is included in Canada's National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) program, but no releases of the substance have been reported.

Fate

The results of the Level III Fugacity modelling indicates that if the chemical is released equally to the three major environmental compartments (air, water, and soil), it will mainly partition to water and soil (Table 2), where the chemical is not expected to be persistent (see Table 3).

Table 2: Results of the Level III fugacity modelling (EPIWIN 3.12)

	Fraction of Substance Partitioning to Each Medium (%)					
Substance Released to:	Air Water Soil Sediment					
Air (100%)	12.60	23.80	63.60	0.04		
Water (100%)	0.01	99.80	0.03	0.19		
Soil (100%)	0.23	21.50	78.20	0.04		
Air, water, soil (33% each)	1.93	44.20	53.80	0.08		

An estimated vapour pressure of 738.6 Pa combined with an estimated Henry's Law constant of 2.54 x 10⁻² to 2.77 x 10⁻¹ Pa-m³/mole indicates that if 2-methoxyethanol acetate is released solely to air, a portion will remain in this compartment but the majority will be readily removed from the atmosphere in rainwater. In air, the chemical seems to be fairly rapidly oxidized, indicated by an atmospheric oxidation half-life value of 1.1 days (EPIWIN v3.12) (Table 3a).

If released to soil, 2-methoxyethanol acetate is expected to be quite mobile, based upon an estimated Log K_{oc} of 0.06. Volatilization from moist soil surfaces seems to be an unimportant fate process based upon an estimated Henry's Law constant of 2.54 x 10^{-2} to 2.77×10^{-1} Pa-m³/mole. This chemical may volatilize from dry soil surfaces based upon its estimated vapour pressure of 738.6 Pa. The substance would not be expected to persist in soil as its estimated biodegradation half-life is predicted to be 15 days (Table 3a).

If released into water, 2-methoxyethanol acetate is expected to occur mostly in a dissolved form, based on its low estimated Log K_{oc} of 0.06 and high water solubility of 1000 g/L. Volatilization from water surfaces is expected to be an unimportant fate process based upon this compound's estimated Henry's Law constant. Thus, if water is a receiving medium, 2-methoxyethanol acetate is expected to mainly remain in the aqueous

phase. The substance is not expected to persist in this phase, however, with an estimated biodegradation half-life of 15 days (Table 3a).

Presence in the Environment

No monitoring data relating to the presence of this substance in environmental media (air, water, soil, sediment) have yet been identified.

Evaluation of P, B and iT Properties

Environmental Persistence

The Level III Fugacity model indicates negligible partitioning of the substance into air. Once released into the environment, 2-methoxyethanol acetate is not predicted to be persistent in air, water, soil or sediment.

Table 3a. Empirical data for persistence

Medium	Fate Process	Degradation Value	Endpoint/Units	Reference
Water	Biodegradation	97	Biodegradation, %	MITI, 1992

The empirical biodegradation data (MITI 1992) show 97% biodegradation over 28 days in a ready-biodegradation test for 2-methoxyethanol acetate (Table 3b). In addition, for estimating degradation in water, soil and sediment, a QSAR weight-of-evidence approach (Environment Canada 2007) was applied using the models shown in Table 3b. Although the half life due to hydrolysis is predicted to be relatively long (304 days), 2-methoxyethanol acetate will rapidly biodegrade, therefore 2-methoxyethanol acetate would not be considered as persistent in water.

Table 3b. Modelled data for persistence

Medium	Fate Process	Degradation Value	Endpoint/Units	Reference
Water	Biodegradation	15	Half-life, days	BIOWIN v4.02; Ultimate Survey Model
Water	Biodegradation	0.9131	Probability	BIOWIN v4.02; MITI Non-linear
Water	Biodegradation	1	Probability	TOPKAT v6.2
Water	Hydrolysis	304.8	Half-life, days	EPIWIN v3.12

To extrapolate half-life in water to half-lives in soils and sediments, Boethling's extrapolation factors $t_{1/2 \text{ water}}$: $t_{1/2 \text{ soil}}$: $t_{1/2 \text{ sediment}} = 1$: 1: 4 (Boethling *et al.*, 1995) can be used. Using these factors and the biodegradation model results, it may be concluded that 2-methoxyethanol acetate is not expected to be persistent in soil and sediments.

The empirical and modelled data (Tables 3a and 3b) demonstrate that 2-methoxyethanol acetate does not meet the persistence criteria (half-lives in soil or water \geq 182 days; half life in sediment \geq 365 days) as set out in the *Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations* (Government of Canada, 2000).

Potential for Bioaccumulation

Modelled data for the bioaccumulation potential of 2-methoxyethanol acetate presented in Table 4 indicate that this chemical is not expected to bioaccumulate in the environment.

The Modified GOBAS BAF middle trophic level model for fish produced a Bioaccumulation Factor (BAF) value of 1.02 L/kg wet weight, indicating that this substance is not likely to bioconcentrate or biomagnify in the environment. The Bioconcentration Factor (BCF) models also provide a weight-of-evidence to support the low bioconcentration potential of the substance.

Metabolism information for this substance was not available, nor was it considered in the BAF models.

Table 4. Modelled data for bioaccumulation

Test Organism	Endpoint	Value wet wt	Reference
Fish	BAF	1.02 L/kg	Gobas BAF T2MTL (Arnot
			and Gobas, 2003)
Fish	BCF	1.01 L/kg	Gobas BCF 5% T2LTL (Arnot
		_	and Gobas, 2003)
Fish	BCF	11.7 L/kg	OASIS Forecast v1.20
Fish	BCF	3.16 L/kg	BCFWIN v2.15

The weight of evidence indicates that the substance does not meet the bioaccumulation criterion (BCF, BAF \geq 5000) as set out in the *Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations* (Government of Canada, 2000).

Ecological Effects

A - In the Aquatic Compartment

There is modelled and experimental evidence that the substance does not cause harm to aquatic organisms at relatively low concentrations (e.g., does not exhibit acute LC/EC50<1.0 mg/L) [Table 5a and b].

Table 5a Empirical data for aquatic toxicity

Test Organism	Type of Test	Endpoint	Value (mg/L)	Reference
Fish	Acute	LC50	160	Bridié et al., 1979

LC50 – Lethal concentration affecting 50% of the test population

Table 5b Modelled data for aquatic toxicity

Test Organism	Type of Test	Endpoint	Value (mg/L)	Reference
Fish	Acute	LC50	54.89 – 343.11	TOPKAT v6.2;
				ECOSAR v0.99h;
				ASTER; Artificial
				Intelligence Expert
				System v1.25
Daphnia	Acute	EC50	0.0687	TOPKAT v6.2
Daphnia	Acute	LC50	5027.75	ECOSAR v0.99h

EC50 – Concentration effecting 50% of the test population

LC50 – Lethal concentration affecting 50% of the test population

A study on the acute aquatic toxicity of 2-methoxyethanol acetate to the fish *Carrasius auratus* resulted in a LC50 of 160mg/L (Table 5a). This value is supported by the models shown in Table 5b. These results indicate that the substance is not highly hazardous to aquatic organisms (i.e. does not exhibit acute LC/EC50≤ 1.0 mg/L) but rather has low to moderate toxicity.

B - In Other Media

No effects studies for non-aquatic non-human organisms were found for this compound.

Potential to Cause Ecological Harm

Based on the available information, 2-methoxyethanol acetate does not persist in the environment and is not bioaccumulative based on criteria defined in the *Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations* (Government of Canada, 2000). Information on concentrations of 2-methoxyethanol acetate in the environment has not been identified at this time. However, the experimental ecotoxicological data indicates that the substance has low to moderate toxicity to aquatic organisms. Information on potential impacts in other environmental compartments has not been identified.

Uncertainties

QSAR models were used to estimate persistence and bioaccumulation. There are uncertainties associated with the use of QSAR models to estimate these characteristics. In addition, values for some key physical/chemical properties such as vapour pressure, Kow, Koc and Henry's law constant, which are used as input to the QSAR models, have also had to be estimated

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