

Procedures of the Health Effects Advisory Committee for the Development of Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) in Title 8, Section 5155, Airborne Contaminants

1. **Health Effects Advisory Committee (HEAC) and meetings.** Cal/OSHA plans to hold quarterly meetings of the HEAC with participation open to other attendees.
 - a. Cal/OSHA selects HEAC members based on their expertise in toxicology, epidemiology, occupational medicine, and industrial hygiene.
 - b. HEAC members will be asked to serve a minimum of 2 years, attend regularly, and announce any possible conflicts of interest related to substances under discussion.
 - c. Cal/OSHA identifies interested parties not on the HEAC to obtain advisory input on revised PELs.
 - d. Cal/OSHA maintains a website with a PEL priority list, substance summary sheets, meeting minutes, and agendas.

2. **Scope of the advisory meetings.** Cal/OSHA organizes and chairs the advisory meetings. The meetings include the following, either in the same meeting or in separate meetings, depending on the complexity of the issues related to the particular substance being evaluated:
 - a. HEAC discussions regarding a new or revised PEL based on scientific knowledge of projected health effects.
 - b. Discussions with interested parties regarding feasibility and impact of the proposed new or revised PEL (see Gov. Code 11346.45).

3. **Content of the advisory meetings.** Cal/OSHA prepares for and conducts advisory meetings to discuss the following:
 - a. A Priority List of Substances to be considered for revision or tracked for prioritization using the following criteria:
 - Evidence of a serious potential hazard not adequately addressed by existing regulations of the Division or other governmental agencies
 - A substantial change in the value of an OEL that could contribute to increased protection of workers
 - The degree to which a substance is in widespread use in California or to which there are other indications of pervasive and potentially hazardous worker exposure to the substance
 - The serious nature of the health hazard presented by the substance
 - b. A substance summary document containing relevant scientific evidence, usage information, and feasibility data for the HEAC to consider.
 - c. Health effects and other data identified by the HEAC that may support revising particular PELs.
 - d. Analysis and application of the data to arrive at revised PELs recommended by the HEAC.
 - e. Feasibility and impact on potentially affected parties of the recommended PELs based on:
 - Technical issues associated with making measurements to evaluate compliance.
 - Technical issues associated with controlling exposures to come into compliance. Estimates of the costs associated with achieving and maintaining compliance.

4. **Process of Advisory meetings:** HEAC will review draft PELs prepared by Cal/OSHA through an iterative process wherein drafts are discussed at two or more meetings. The following guidelines are to be followed for the discussions:
 - a. HEAC will use a “weight-of-evidence” approach to evaluate the scientific evidence relevant to a particular substance.

- b.** HEAC will attempt to reach consensus on the supporting evidence it weighted as most important to its conclusions.
 - c.** Interested parties shall be actively engaged to identify key scientific and technical questions to be evaluated in development of the PEL.
- 5. **Proposed rulemaking.** Cal/OSHA undertakes steps to propose rulemaking to OSHSB in collaboration with DIR, incorporating the advisory input received from the HEAC and from other parties. The HEAC and other persons are included on the list of interested parties who are notified when formal rulemaking is initiated.