

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
INTERNATIONAL AGENCY FOR RESEARCH ON CANCER



IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans

VOLUME 87

Inorganic and Organic Lead Compounds



LYON, FRANCE
2006

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Lead Compounds**

This publication represents the views and expert opinions
of an IARC Working Group on the
Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans,
which met in Lyon,

10–17 February 2004

2006

IARC MONOGRAPHS

In 1969, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) initiated a programme on the evaluation of the carcinogenic risk of chemicals to humans involving the production of critically evaluated monographs on individual chemicals. The programme was subsequently expanded to include evaluations of carcinogenic risks associated with exposures to complex mixtures, life-style factors and biological and physical agents, as well as those in specific occupations.

The objective of the programme is to elaborate and publish in the form of monographs critical reviews of data on carcinogenicity for agents to which humans are known to be exposed and on specific exposure situations; to evaluate these data in terms of human risk with the help of international working groups of experts in chemical carcinogenesis and related fields; and to indicate where additional research efforts are needed.

The lists of IARC evaluations are regularly updated and are available on Internet: <http://monographs.iarc.fr/>

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- 1 Leaded gasoline: tetraethyl lead has been used as an additive in gasoline for decades.
- 2 Exposure to lead-based paint in older homes: a major source of lead exposure for children
- 3 Products like surma and kohl, used in some cultures for cosmetic purposes and in traditional medicine, often contain large amounts of lead.
- 4 Lead-acid batteries: the largest single application of lead world-wide
- 5 Lead-glazed tableware: the bluish-grey cracked glaze of these teacups may leach considerable amounts of lead.
- 6 Lead-based paint in older homes