IARC Monographs on the Evaluation of Carcinogenic Risks to Humans

VOLUME 97
1,3-Butadiene, Ethylene Oxide and Vinyl Halides (Vinyl Fluoride, Vinyl Chloride and Vinyl Bromide)

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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,

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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 Ethylene oxide is an effective fumigant and sterilant for microbial organisms. It is used to treat hospital equipment, disposable and reusable medical items, drugs, packaging materials, scientific equipment and many other items.

2 The largest single use for 1,3-butadiene is in the production of styrene-butadiene rubber for tyres and tyre products.

3 Vinyl chloride is used primarily in the manufacture of polyvinyl chloride.