



# OARS

- \* An initiative managed by TERA to:
- \* Facilitate sharing of information with workers and occupational health and safety professionals
- \* Provide a forum for information exchange about exposure guidance for chemical stressors, methods for improving occupational risk assessments, and training opportunities
- \* A home for exposure guide values, and related guideline documents, for chemical stressors

# Why Develop OARS?

- \* Professionals in occupational risk assessment continue to see the value of setting occupational exposure limits (OELs) as a central tool for worker health protection. However we need better processes to:
  - Eliminate duplication of efforts – too many chemicals and not enough resources
  - Ensure education and proper use of different sources of information driven by a complex regulatory environment (OELs versus DNELs versus hazard bands)
  - Provide mechanisms for technology transfer among risk assessment specialties to ensure best use of the current science
- \* These needs can be addressed through better collaboration through an alliance of interested parties



# Affiliates and Sponsors

- \* OARS encourages stakeholder engagement through:
  - Open and transparent processes
    - Invitation of stakeholders to attend science deliberations and provide data
  - Active outreach and communication
    - Information sharing via web posting, free on-line databases (RiskIE), and active outreach to affiliates
  - Opportunities for direct involvement
    - Sponsorship of OEL development for chemicals of interest to external parties

# OARS Advisory Board

## \* Advisory Board Roles:

- Statements on emerging risk methods to support harmonization and technology transfer
- Communicate with leading entities in occupational risk assessment to share best practices
- Support for the WEEL Committee
  - OEL request prioritization
  - Review or input on Administrative Operating Procedures (AOPs)
  - Provide guidance on COI issues
  - External stakeholder comment disposition

# WEELs



- \* Workplace Environmental Exposure Levels™ (WEELs) are health-based guide values for chemical stressors. The WEELs provide air concentrations intended to protect most workers from adverse health effects related to occupational chemical exposures
- \* WEELs have been derived by a committee of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) that has been active for over 35 years
- \* WEELs for approximately 120 substances – focus on high priority chemicals lacking other published OELs

# Current Status of WEEL Committee

- \* August 2011: AIHA Board votes to discontinue WEELS
- \* October 2011: WEEL members pass unanimously proposal to establish an OEL advisory group managed by TERA
- \* January 2012: AIHA Board votes to transfer WEELS to TERA and OARS goes “live”
- \* February 2012: Existing AOPs adapted and ratified by WEEL members
- \* March 2012:
  - OARS Advisory Board Charter in development
  - Transfer and uploading of WEEL values on TERA website
- \* June 2012: First OARS WEEL held
- \* October 2012: Second OARS WEEL Meeting held
- \* March 2013: Third OARS WEEL Meeting held
- \* July 2013: WEEL values available on-line at [www.TERA.org/OARS/WEEL.html](http://www.TERA.org/OARS/WEEL.html)
- \* September 2013: Fourth OARS WEEL Meeting Planned



# WEELs Under OARS

- \* Some changes for improved public health impact
  - WEEL values and their full documentation will be available with no charge on TERA website to increase access
- \* New option for stakeholders to sponsor a WEEL and provide a data package to facilitate the process
  - New option providing independent review for submitted OELs to assist stakeholders ensure their internal OELs are sound
- \* Despite the changes - the high quality science and committee processes remain the same

# More Information?

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See the OARS webpage

[www.TERA.org/OARS](http://www.TERA.org/OARS)