

Q3C(R8) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERMITTED DAILY EXPOSURES FOR THREE SOLVENTS—2-METHYLTETRAHYDROFURAN, CYCLOPENTYL METHYL ETHER, AND TERT-BUTYL ALCOHOL—ACCORDING TO THE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE GUIDANCE Q3C IMPURITIES: RESIDUAL SOLVENTS

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INTERNATIONAL CONCIL FOR HARMONISATION OF TECHNICAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACEUTICALS FOR HUMAN USE

ICH HARMONISED GUIDELINE

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERMITTED DAILY EXPOSURES FOR
THREE SOLVENTS—2-METHYLTETRAHYDROFURAN, CYCLOPENTYL
METHYL ETHER, AND TERT-BUTYL ALCOHOL—ACCORDING TO THE
MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE GUIDANCE Q3C IMPURITIES:
RESIDUAL SOLVENTS**

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Q3C(R8) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERMITTED DAILY EXPOSURES FOR THREE SOLVENTS—2-METHYLTETRAHYDROFURAN, CYCLOPENTYL METHYL ETHER, AND TERT-BUTYL ALCOHOL—ACCORDING TO THE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE GUIDANCE Q3C IMPURITIES: RESIDUAL SOLVENTS

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1 **Q3C(R8) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PERMITTED DAILY EXPOSURES FOR THREE**
2 **SOLVENTS—2-METHYLTETRAHYDROFURAN, CYCLOPENTYL METHYL ETHER, AND TERT-**
3 **BUTYL ALCOHOL—ACCORDING TO THE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE GUIDANCE**
4 **Q3C IMPURITIES: RESIDUAL SOLVENTS**

5 **2-METHYLTETRAHYDROFURAN**

6 **Introduction**

7 2-Methyltetrahydrofuran (2-MTHF, synonyms: 2-Methyloxolane, Tetrahydrosylvan;
8 Tetrahydro-2-methylfuran; CAS Number 96-47-9) is a colourless, volatile liquid with ether-
9 like odour. 2-MTHF is an organic solvent usually synthesized as a racemic mixture consisting
10 of two enantiomeric forms ((S)+ and (R)-). Solubility in water is limited and decreases with
11 increasing temperature. It has a vapour pressure of 136 mbar (20°C) (1).

12 2-MTHF is increasingly used as a catalytic solvent in exchange of Tetrahydrofuran (THF) and
13 is much less miscible with water compared to THF.

14 **Genotoxicity**

15 2-MTHF was not mutagenic in the AMES bacterial reverse mutation assay with *Salmonella*
16 *typhimurium* (3) and *Escherichia coli* WP2 *uvrA* (2). 2-MTHF was also tested *in vitro* in a
17 L5178Y mouse lymphoma cell TK+/- assay (MLA) (3), and a chromosome aberration assay in
18 human peripheral blood lymphocytes (2), and *in vivo* in a bone marrow micronucleus test
19 integrated into a 3-month oral repeated-dose toxicity study in rats (2). All test results were
20 negative except for the MLA in the presence of S9, which was considered inconclusive without
21 further explanation (3). In conclusion, there is no evidence that 2-MTHF is genotoxic.

22 **Carcinogenicity**

23 No data for 2-MTHF are available.

24 **Reproductive toxicity**

25 No reliable information about reproductive toxicity is available. In an acute embryo toxicity
26 and teratogenicity test in zebrafish, 2-MTHF was tested at concentrations ranging from 860 –
27 8600 mg/L (4). Acute embryo toxicity was observed for 2-MTHF at a nominal LC₅₀ value of
28 2980 mg/L. Sublethal effects were also observed, such as an increase in oedema at nominal
29 concentrations ≥ 1720 mg/L, as well as an increased number of embryos without detectable

30 blood circulation and insufficient pigmentation at a nominal concentration of 2580 mg/L.
31 Teratogenic effects were not observed with 2-MTHF in this assay.

32 **Repeated-dose toxicity**

33 Two 3-month oral repeated-dose toxicity studies in CrI:CD (SD) rats have been described with
34 2-MTHF; one without an additional recovery period (2) and one with an additional 1-month
35 recovery period (5). The top dose in the first study was 26 mg/kg/day (2) and in the second
36 study 1000 mg/kg/day (5). 2-MTHF treatment-related observations were not seen in the first
37 study (2). In the second study, groups of 10 male and 10 female rats per dose group were treated
38 with doses of 80, 250, 500 and 1000 mg/kg/day (5). An additional 1-month treatment-free
39 recovery period was added for 5 animals/sex of the control and the high dose groups.
40 Treatment-related observations were generally seen only at doses ≥ 500 mg/kg/day. Besides
41 slight effects on kidney weights (increased at ≥ 500 mg/kg/day), blood cholesterol (increase at
42 1000 mg/kg/day) and prothrombin time (decreased at ≥ 500 mg/kg/day), the only test article-
43 related microscopic observation was hepatocellular centrilobular hypertrophy at 1000
44 mg/kg/day. However, no effects were observed in the recovery group and the observed effects
45 can therefore be regarded as completely reversible (5). The NOEL in the second study was
46 considered to be 250 mg/kg/day.

47 The NOEL of 250 mg/kg/day was used in the PDE calculation:

$$48 \quad PDE = \frac{250 \times 50}{5 \times 10 \times 5 \times 1 \times 1} = 50 \text{ mg/day}$$

49 $F_1 = 5$ to account for extrapolation from rats to humans

50 $F_2 = 10$ to account for differences between individual humans

51 $F_3 = 5$ for a 3-month study in rodents

52 $F_4 = 1$ because no severe effects were observed

53 $F_5 = 1$ because a NOEL was established

54 **Conclusion**

55 The calculated PDE for 2-MTHF is 50 mg/day based upon the NOEL of the rat sub-chronic
56 oral study. Since the proposed PDE is greater than or equal to 50 mg/day, it is recommended
57 that 2-MTHF be placed into Class 3 “Solvents with low toxic potential” in Table 3 in the ICH
58 Impurities: Residual Solvents Guideline.

59

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75 exposure value for the solvent 2-methyltetrahydrofuran. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol*
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77

78

79 **CYCLOPENTYL METHYL ETHER**

80 **Introduction**

81 Cyclopentyl methyl ether (CPME: CAS Number 5614-37-9) is used in pharmaceutical
82 chemical development as an alternative to its more common analogues such as tetrahydrofuran
83 and tert-butyl methyl ether (1,2).

84 The vapour pressure of CPME is 44.9 mmHg at 25°C, the Log P_{ow} is 1.59 and the water
85 solubility is 1.1 g/100 g (23 °C) (3,4).

86 CPME is classified as an irritant to skin (H315) and eye (H319) in accordance with EC No
87 1272/2008, in the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
88 (GHS). CPME did not show the potential to induce skin sensitization in the Local Lymph Node
89 Assay. In rats, LD₅₀ for acute oral exposure is 1000–2000 mg/kg, for dermal exposure it is
90 greater than 2000 mg/kg, and for inhalation exposure it is greater than 21.5 mg/L. No human
91 toxicity data have been reported (2).

92 **Genotoxicity**

93 The results of genotoxicity tests have been reported (1,2). CPME was not mutagenic genotoxic
94 in the AMES bacterial reverse mutation assays in *S. typhimurium* test strains TA98, TA100,
95 TA1535, TA1537 and *E. coli* WP2 *uvrA* with and without metabolic activation at
96 concentrations up to 5710 µg/plate (1) and 5000 µg/plate (2). Negative results were also
97 obtained in *in vitro* mammalian chromosome aberration tests in human lymphocytes at
98 concentrations up to 1.1 mg/mL and in Chinese Hamster Lung cells at concentrations up to 1.0
99 mg/mL (2). An *in vivo* rat micronucleus test integrated in a 3-month oral repeated-dose study
100 up to a dose of 31 mg/kg/day (1) and an *in vivo* mammalian erythrocyte micronucleus test in
101 CD-1 mice at single oral doses up to 2000 mg/kg/ (2) also did not indicate any genotoxic
102 potential. In conclusion, there is no evidence that CPME is genotoxic.

103 **Carcinogenicity**

104 No data are available.

105 **Reproductive toxicity**

106 In a two-generation reproductive toxicity study, CPME was administered to rats in drinking
107 water at doses of 313, 1250 or 5000 mg/mL (5). Other than decreased body weights of pups in
108 the F1 generation and F2 generation which were observed at the highest dose, no other

109 significant changes in reproductive parameters were reported. The NOAEL of this study was
110 estimated to be 193.45 mg/kg/day (1250 mg/L in drinking water). However, as detailed toxicity
111 information from this study is not available, this study was not used to support the calculation
112 of a PDE.

113 **Repeated-dose toxicity**

114 CPME was studied in two oral and one inhalation repeated-dose studies in rats.

115 In a 28-day study with a 14-day recovery period, Crj: Crl:CD(SD) rats were administered
116 CPME by oral gavage at 15, 150 or 700 mg/kg/day in corn oil (2,6). Six unscheduled deaths
117 occurred in males at 700 mg/kg/day between days 12 and 15 of treatment and were attributed
118 to poor clinical conditions. Salivation was commonly observed in males and females at 700
119 mg/kg/day. Salivation occurred twice in one male at 150 mg/kg/day however this finding was
120 not considered adverse. Decreased motor activity, piloerection, abnormal gait, tremors,
121 convulsion, hunched posture, fast respiration, and thin appearance were observed in males at
122 700 mg/kg/day. Decreased body weight gain was observed in females at 700 mg/kg/day. All
123 clinical findings and changes in bodyweight gains resolved after the recovery period. There
124 were no other toxicological effects of CPME in this study. The NOEL of this study was
125 determined to be 150 mg/kg/day.

126 In a 90-day study, Sprague Dawley Crl:CD(SD) rats were administered up to 31 mg/kg/day
127 CPME by oral gavage in corn oil (1). There were no CPME-related ante-mortem or post-
128 mortem findings. Detailed information on the experimental design and study results such as
129 clinical signs, haematology and blood chemistry findings were not publicly available, although
130 the authors considered the NOEL of this study to be 31 mg/kg/day.

131 In a 90-day study with a 28-day recovery period, Crj: CD (SD) IGS rats were exposed to
132 gaseous CPME up to 4 mg/L (6 h/day, 5 days/week) by whole-body inhalation exposure (2).
133 Toxic effects occurred at 4 mg/L and included clinical findings of salivation and nasal
134 discharge, decreased body weights, increased levels of alanine aminotransferase and potassium
135 (in males), increased absolute and body weight-relative kidney weight (in males), hyaline
136 droplets in the proximal tubular epithelium of the kidney, and simple hyperplasia of the
137 mucosal epithelium of the urinary bladder. All adverse effects were reversible following the
138 recovery period. The NOEL of this study was determined to be 0.84 mg/L.

139 The most appropriate and well-documented study for CPME toxicity was the 28-day oral rat
140 study. The PDE was calculated based on the identified NOEL of 150 mg/kg/day from this
141 study.

$$142 \quad PDE = \frac{150 \times 50}{5 \times 10 \times 10 \times 1 \times 1} = 15 \text{ mg/day}$$

143 F1 = 5 to account for extrapolation from rats to humans

144 F2 = 10 to account for differences between individual humans

145 F3 = 10 because duration of treatment was less than 3 months

146 F4 = 1 because no severe effects were observed

147 F5 = 1 because a NOEL was established

148 **Conclusion**

149 The calculated PDE for CPME is 15 mg/day based upon the NOEL from the 28-day oral
150 toxicity study. Therefore, it is recommended that CPME be placed into Class 2 “Solvents to Be
151 Limited” in Table 2 in the ICH Impurities: Residual Solvents Guideline.

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170

171 TERTIARY-BUTYL ALCOHOL**172 Introduction**

173 Tertiary-butyl alcohol (*t*-Butyl alcohol, tert-butanol; TBA: CAS Number 75-65-0) is a tertiary
174 aliphatic alcohol and used for a variety of purposes including as an alcohol denaturant, a
175 dehydration agent, and a solvent (1). TBA is soluble in water and has a vapour pressure of 31
176 mm Hg (20°C). TBA is rapidly absorbed following inhalation or ingestion but poorly absorbed
177 through skin (2).

178 The rat oral LD₅₀ (lethal dose for 50% of animals, combined values for males and females) has
179 been reported to be between 2733 and 3500 mg/kg body weight. The primary acute effects
180 observed in animals are signs of alcoholic intoxication. Human clinical test data indicate that
181 TBA is neither an irritant nor a sensitizer (3). Its potency for intoxication is approximately
182 1.5 times that of ethanol (4). Given its wide diversity of use, the potential for human exposure
183 to TBA is high (5). The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)
184 indicates its use is widespread in the workplace (1). A Cosmetic Ingredient Review Expert
185 Panel also concluded that TBA is safe as used in cosmetic products (3).

186 Genotoxicity

187 TBA was not mutagenic in the AMES bacterial reverse mutation assay (6). The US National
188 Toxicology Program (NTP) studies also showed TBA was not genotoxic *in vitro* with and
189 without metabolic activation (S9) (mouse lymphoma cell mutation assay, chromosome
190 aberrations, sister chromatid exchanges). *In vivo*, no increases in micronucleated erythrocytes
191 were observed in peripheral blood samples from mice administered up to 40000 ppm TBA in
192 drinking water for 13 weeks or up to 625 mg/kg administered by i.p. injection three times at
193 24-hour intervals (6). In conclusion, there is no evidence that TBA is genotoxic (2).

194 Carcinogenicity

195 TBA was investigated by the US National Toxicology Program (NTP) in two drinking water
196 studies, one in F344/N rats and one in B6C3F1 mice (1,6). Both studies included three
197 treatment groups (60 animals/sex/group; 50 animals/sex/group completed the study): in rats,
198 doses of 85, 195, and 420 mg/kg/day in males and 175, 330, and 650 mg/kg/day in females; in
199 mice, doses of 535, 1035, and 2065 mg/kg/day in males and 510, 1015, and 2105 mg/kg/day
200 in females) (1). Survival was decreased in high dose rats and high dose male mice. Final mean
201 body weights were decreased in exposed male and high dose female rats and high dose female

202 mice. The primary targets of TBA were the kidney (mineralization, hyperplasia, tumours) in
203 male rats and the thyroid gland (follicular cell hyperplasia, tumours) and urinary bladder
204 (inflammation and epithelial hyperplasia) in mice. The NTP Technical Report concluded that
205 there was some evidence of carcinogenic activity in male rats based on increased incidences of
206 renal tubule adenoma or carcinoma (combined) and in female mice based on increased
207 incidences of follicular cell adenoma of the thyroid gland (6). There was no evidence of
208 carcinogenicity in female rats and equivocal evidence in male mice.

209

210 In mice, the incidence of thyroid follicular cell adenoma was significantly increased in high
211 dose females. These tumorigenic effects were associated with an increased incidence and
212 severity of focal follicular cell hyperplasia of the thyroid gland in all TBA-treated groups of
213 males and females (1,6). In contrast, no thyroid tumours were observed in an 18-month
214 carcinogenicity study of methyl *tert*-butyl ether (MTBE) by the inhalation route in CD-1 mice
215 (7). The systemic TBA exposure (as a metabolite of MTBE) likely exceeded the exposure in
216 the NTP study (2). However, differences in strain of mice (CD-1 versus B6C3F1) or route of
217 administration may be responsible for the differences in response. In the absence of evidence
218 suggesting direct thyroid toxicity, it was hypothesized that TBA induced thyroid tumours in
219 the drinking water study through increased liver metabolism of thyroid hormones, triggering a
220 compensatory increase in thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) production and, thus, thyroid
221 follicular cell proliferation and hyperplasia (2). Rodents are substantially more sensitive than
222 humans to the development of thyroid follicular cell tumours in response to thyroid hormone
223 imbalance. Thus, the dose response is non-linear and tumours are not expected to occur in
224 humans in the absence of altered thyroid hormone homeostasis (8,9). In partial agreement with
225 the above hypothesis, TBA is an inducer of Phase I and II liver enzymes following 14 days of
226 oral exposure at doses less than or equal to those used in chronic studies and TBA
227 administration resulted in a small decrease in circulating thyroid hormones in B6C3F1 mice
228 (10). However, no meaningful changes in TSH levels were observed in this study. A
229 comprehensive review of the mouse carcinogenicity data concluded that, in the absence of
230 meaningful effect on TSH and toxicity to the thyroid, the cause of the increase in either
231 hyperplasia or adenoma incidence remains unclear (2). TBA administration also resulted in an
232 increased incidence of chronic inflammation and hyperplasia of the transitional epithelium of
233 the urinary bladder in high-dose males and females.

234 In rats, an increased incidence of renal tubule adenomas and carcinomas was observed in males
235 exposed to TBA, but the increase was not dose-dependent. The evidence suggests that these

236 tumours are due to a $\alpha_2\mu$ -globulin nephropathy-mediated mode of action. $\alpha_2\mu$ -Globulin
 237 nephropathy is a well-recognized sex- and species-specific mechanism of toxicity without
 238 relevance to humans (11,12). Foci of linear mineralization in the renal medulla, a lesion
 239 consistently reported as a long-term consequence of $\alpha_2\mu$ -globulin nephropathy, were observed
 240 in the high dose male rats (1,6). Further, TBA was shown to interact with $\alpha_2\mu$, which explains
 241 the accumulation of $\alpha_2\mu$ in the male rat kidney (5). Although no significant neoplastic findings
 242 were observed in female rats, a dose-dependent increase in severity of nephropathy was
 243 observed at all TBA doses compared to control animals (average severity of 1.6, 1.9, 2.3, and
 244 2.9; scale of 0–4); incidence ranged from 47–48 out of 50 animals in all groups. An increased
 245 incidence of transitional epithelial hyperplasia and suppurative inflammation at the two highest
 246 doses and renal tubule hyperplasia in a single high dose animal were also observed. The human
 247 relevance of the renal findings in female rats is currently unclear.

248

249 The 2-year carcinogenicity studies were considered the most relevant for calculation of the
 250 PDE for TBA. From the results of the rat and mouse carcinogenicity studies, PDEs were
 251 calculated based on two different scenarios:

252

253 (1) renal lesions and tumour findings in male rats are not relevant to humans and, therefore, the
 254 increased severity in nephropathy observed in female rats at the lowest dose (LOEL =
 255 175 mg/kg/day) is used for the PDE calculation.

256

257 or

258

259 (2) increased incidence of follicular cell hyperplasia in the thyroid of female mice at the lowest
 260 TBA dose (LOEL = 510 mg/kg/day) is used for the PDE calculation.

261

262 Scenario 1 (rat): LOEL_(nephropathy) 175 mg/kg/day

263

$$264 \quad PDE = \frac{175 \times 50}{5 \times 10 \times 1 \times 1 \times 5} = 35 \text{ mg/day}$$

265 F1 = 5 to account for extrapolation from rats to humans

266 F2 = 10 to account for differences between individual humans

267 F3 = 1 because long duration of treatment (2 years)

268 F4 = 1 due to similar severity of effect (nephropathy in females) at the low dose
 269 compared to control animals

270 F5 = 5 because a NOEL for nephropathy was not established

271

272 Limit = (35 x 1000)/10 = 3500 ppm

273

274

275 Scenario 2 (mouse): LOEL_(follicular cell hyperplasia) 510 mg/kg/day

276

$$277 \quad PDE = \frac{510 \times 50}{12 \times 10 \times 1 \times 1 \times 5} = 42.5 \text{ mg/day}$$

278 F1 = 12 to account for extrapolation from mice to humans

279 F2 = 10 to account for differences between individual humans

280 F3 = 1 because long duration of treatment (2 years)

281 F4 = 1 because hyperplasia response was of minimal to mild average severity at
 282 all doses and thyroid tumours were not observed at the low dose

283 F5 = 5 because a NOEL for hyperplasia was not established

284

285 Limit = (42.5 x 1000)/10 = 4250 ppm

286

287 The ultimate PDE for TBA, calculated based on the identified LOEL of 175 mg/kg/day from
 288 2-year rat study, is 35 mg/day.

289 **Reproductive toxicity**

290 TBA has not been associated with induction of skeletal or visceral malformations in rats or
 291 mice but did induce developmental delays and intrauterine or prenatal mortality at doses of
 292 1000 mg/kg/day or greater (2).

293

294 In a reproduction/developmental toxicity screening study, TBA was administered to Sprague-
 295 Dawley rats (12/sex/group) by oral gavage at dose levels of 0, 64, 160, 400, and
 296 1000 mg/kg/day for up to 63 days in males and from 4 weeks prior to mating until postnatal
 297 day (PND) 20 in females (13). There were no adverse effects on any reproductive parameters
 298 including mating index, fertility index, pregnancy index, or gestation index. For dams receiving

299 1000 mg/kg/day TBA through gestation and lactation, there was a significant reduction in mean
300 litter size, a decrease in the number of live born per pregnancy, an increase in the number of
301 stillborn pups, increased pup mortality up to PND 4, and a decrease in mean pup body weight
302 at birth, which continued to weaning. Parental toxicity (transient CNS effects, reduced body
303 weight and food consumption) was observed at doses of 400 mg/kg or greater. The NOAEL
304 for developmental/reproductive effects was identified as 400 mg/kg/day.

305 At a dose of 1000 mg/kg/day, mild to moderate transient systemic toxicity was observed in
306 both sexes in the parental generation including reversible central nervous system (CNS) effects
307 such as lethargy and ataxia, and reduced food consumption and weight gain. At 400 mg/kg/day,
308 an increased incidence of transient mild lethargy/ataxia in females was observed. The NOEL
309 for parental toxicity was 160 mg/kg/day.

310 **Repeated-dose toxicity**

311 In a sub-chronic toxicity study, TBA was administered to F344/N rats (10/sex/dose) *ad libitum*
312 in drinking water at dose levels of 0, 2.5, 5, 10, 20 and 40 mg/mL for 13 weeks (equivalent to
313 176, 353, 706, 1412 and 2824 mg/kg/day) (6). All high dose males and six high dose females
314 died during the study. Nephropathy was the most sensitive effect observed in the study. An
315 increase in severity of nephropathy was observed in the lower four dose groups in males when
316 compared to control animals as was the accumulation of hyaline droplets in the kidney at doses
317 of 353, 706, and 1412 mg/kg/day. The incidence of nephropathy in females at the highest three
318 doses was significantly greater than that of the controls. Transitional epithelial hyperplasia and
319 inflammation of the urinary bladder were observed at the two highest doses in males and in
320 high dose females. Based on the nephropathy in male rats at the lowest dose, 176 mg/kg/day
321 was considered the LOEL. As noted above, $\alpha_2\mu$ -globulin nephropathy is a well-recognized sex
322 and species-specific mechanism of toxicity without relevance to humans (11,12).

323

324 TBA was also administered to B6C3F1 mice (10/sex/dose) in the drinking water for 13 weeks
325 at the same concentrations provided to rats (doses equivalent to 446, 893, 1786, 3571 and
326 7143 mg/kg/day) (6). Two high dose males and one high dose female died. The final mean
327 body weights in males at the two highest doses and in females at the high dose were
328 significantly lower than that of the control animals. Transitional epithelial hyperplasia and
329 inflammation were observed in the urinary bladder of the same groups. A NOEL of
330 1786 mg/kg/day was identified (6).

331

332 **Conclusion**

333 The calculated PDE for TBA is 35 mg/day based upon the LOEL for nephropathy in females
334 from the 2-year rat carcinogenicity study. It is recommended that TBA be placed into Class 2
335 “Solvents to be limited” in Table 2 in the ICH Impurities: Residual Solvents Guideline.

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