

Note

From: David Cooper, Acting Senior Risk Process manager,
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response

To: Regional CERCLA Risk Assessors

Subject: Re: Exposure Factors Handbook

The purpose of this note is clarify the relationship between the Exposure Factors Handbook Volumes I -III (EPA/600/P-95/002F (a)-(c), August 1997) and the guidance Human Health Evaluation Manual, Supplemental Guidance: "Standard Default Exposure Factors," (OSWER Directive 9285.6-03, Mar 25, 1991). The "Standard Default Exposure Factors" guidance is still the current guidance for generic or default exposure assumptions for risk assessments conducted as part of CERCLA remedial response actions. Some of the new data from the Exposure Factors Handbook (EFH), (e.g., changing average lifetime from 70 to 72 years) do not make a significant difference in estimated risk levels. Other important parameters described in the EFH do not have obvious defaults and will require further consideration before developing default values for CERCLA risk assessment purposes. As always, if there is site-specific data or new information that leads a risk assessor to determine that a different value is more appropriate, then that decision can be made and discussed in the risk assessment and record of decision. The Office of Emergency and Remedial Response (OERR) will be supporting the regional workgroup that is developing a new standard default exposure guidance, but until then OERR is still supporting its 1991 guidance.