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You are here: [EPA Home](#) [Research](#) [Environmental Assessment](#) [IRIS](#) [IRIS Summaries](#)

Merphos (CASRN 150-50-5)

[view QuickView](#)

[MAIN CONTENTS](#)

 List of IRIS Substances	Search IRIS by Keyword <input type="text"/>
	<input type="button" value="go"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> IRIS Summaries/Toxicological Reviews <input type="radio"/> Entire IRIS Website

Reference Dose for Chronic Oral Exposure (RfD) ▼



0366

Merphos; CASRN 150-50-5

Human health assessment information on a chemical substance is included in the IRIS database only after a comprehensive review of toxicity data, as outlined in the [IRIS assessment development process](#). Sections I (Health Hazard Assessments for Noncarcinogenic Effects) and II (Carcinogenicity Assessment for Lifetime Exposure) present the conclusions that were reached during the assessment development process. Supporting information and explanations of the methods used to derive the values given in IRIS are provided in the [guidance documents located on the IRIS website](#).

STATUS OF DATA FOR Merphos

File First On-Line 09/07/1988

Category (section)	Status	Last Revised
Oral RfD Assessment (I.A.)	on-line	04/01/1991
Inhalation RfC Assessment (I.B.)	message	11/01/1992
Carcinogenicity Assessment (II.)	no data	

I. Chronic Health Hazard Assessments for Noncarcinogenic Effects

I.A. Reference Dose for Chronic Oral Exposure (RfD)

Substance Name — Merphos

CASRN — 150-50-5

Last Revised — 04/01/1991

The oral Reference Dose (RfD) is based on the assumption that thresholds exist for certain toxic effects such as cellular necrosis. It is expressed in units of mg/kg-day. In general, the RfD is an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime. Please refer to the Background Document for an elaboration of these concepts. RfDs can also be derived for the noncarcinogenic health effects of substances that are also carcinogens. Therefore, it is essential to refer to other sources of information concerning the carcinogenicity of this substance. If the U.S. EPA has evaluated this substance for potential human carcinogenicity, a summary of that evaluation will be contained in Section II of this file.

___I.A.1. Oral RfD Summary

Critical Effect	Experimental Doses*	UF	MF	RfD
Ataxia, delayed neurotoxicity and weight loss	NOEL: 0.1 mg/kg/day LOAEL: 0.5 mg/kg/day	3000	1	3E-5 mg/kg/day
90-Day Hen Delayed Neurotoxicity Study				
Abou-Donia et al., 1980				

* Conversion Factors: None

___I.A.2. Principal and Supporting Studies (Oral RfD)

Abou-Donia, M.B., D.G. Graham, P.R. Timmons and B.L. Reichert. 1980. Late acute, delayed neurotoxic and cholinergic effects of S,S,S- tributylphosphorotrithioite (merphos) in hens. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 53: 439-457.

Groups of mixed breed hens (5/group) were given a daily oral dose of 0.1, 0.5, 1.0, 2.5, 5.0, 10, 20, 40, or 80 mg/kg of merphos in gelatin capsules for 3 months. Hens at the highest two doses were given 10 to 30 mg/kg/day atropine sulfate (4 to 7 days) as protection against cholinergic effects. Controls consisted of four groups of five hens treated orally with either empty gelatin capsules; 10 mg/kg/day tri-o-cresyl phosphate (positive control); or 1 mg/kg/day parathion (negative control) for 3 months. Another group of three hens was given a daily oral dose of 30 mg/kg of atropine sulfate for 34 to 90 days as an atropine sulfate control. At the end of the treatment period, the birds were observed for 1 month then sacrificed and tissues from the central and peripheral nervous systems were taken for histological examination. Hens receiving 20-80 mg/kg/day lost weight and developed severe ataxia and delayed neurotoxicity that progressed to paralysis. Mortality also occurred at these dose levels. Hens receiving doses of 0.5-10 mg/kg/day lost weight, but regained it by the end of the observation period. These hens also showed mild to gross ataxia, and equivocal or negative histopathological changes in the spinal cord and peripheral nerves.

___I.A.3. Uncertainty and Modifying Factors (Oral RfD)

UF — The uncertainty factor of 3000 includes uncertainties in extrapolation from laboratory animals to humans (10A), subchronic to chronic exposure (10S), sensitive human subpopulations (10H) and an incomplete database.

MF — None

___I.A.4. Additional Studies/Comments (Oral RfD)

Data Considered for Establishing the RfD

- 1) 90-Day Oral - hen: Principal study - see previous description; no core grade (Abou-Donia et al., 1980)
- 2) 90-Day Feeding - rat: NOEL=20 ppm (1.8 mg/kg/day); LEL=35.2 ppm ([3.8 mg/kg/day] reduced brain ChE activity); no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical Corp., 1960a)
- 3) 90-Day Feeding - rat: ChE NOEL=0.5 mg/kg/day; Systemic NOEL=0.5 mg/kg/day; LEL=2.5 mg/kg/day (increased liver weight); no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical Corp., 1960b)
- 4) 90-Day Feeding - rat: ChE and systemic NOEL=25 mg/kg/day; no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical

Corp., 1958a)

5) 90-Day Feeding - dog: ChE NOEL=0.75 mg/kg/day; LEL=2.5 mg/kg/day (plasma ChE inhibition); no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical Corp., 1957)

6) 112-Day Feeding - rat: ChE NOEL=0.1 mg/kg/day; LEL=0.25 mg/kg/day (RBC ChE inhibition in females); no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical Corp., 1958b)

7) 40-Day Feeding - rat: ChE and Systemic NOEL=1 mg/kg/day; no core grade (Virginia Carolina Chemical Corp., 1958c)

Data Gaps: None

__I.A.5. Confidence in the Oral RfD

Study — Low

Database — Low

RfD — Low

The low confidence assigned to the critical study is due to design deficiencies. Supporting data are too limited to merit a confidence greater than low. Low confidence in the RfD follows.

__I.A.6. EPA Documentation and Review of the Oral RfD

Source Document — This assessment is not presented in any existing U.S. EPA document.

Other EPA Documentation — Pesticide Registration Files

Agency Work Group Review — 11/21/1985, 08/13/1987

Verification Date — 08/13/1987

Screening-Level Literature Review Findings — A screening-level review conducted by an EPA contractor of the more recent toxicology literature pertinent to the RfD for Merphos conducted in August 2003 did not identify any critical new studies. IRIS users who know of important new studies may provide that information to the IRIS Hotline at hotline.iris@epa.gov or 202-566-1676.

__I.A.7. EPA Contacts (Oral RfD)

Please contact the IRIS Hotline for all questions concerning this assessment or IRIS, in general, at (202)566-1676 (phone), (202)566-1749 (FAX) or hotline.iris@epa.gov (internet address).

_I.B. Reference Concentration for Chronic Inhalation Exposure (RfC)

Substance Name — Merphos

CASRN — 150-50-5

The health effects data for Merphos (orthophosphate defoliant) have been reviewed by the U.S. EPA RfD/RfC Work Group and determined to be inadequate for derivation of an inhalation RfC. The verification status of this chemical is currently not verifiable. This assessment is not presented in any existing EPA document.

Agency Work Group Review — 06/25/1992

Screening-Level Literature Review Findings — A screening-level review conducted by an EPA contractor of the more recent toxicology literature pertinent to the RfC for Merphos conducted in August 2003 did not

identify any critical new studies. IRIS users who know of important new studies may provide that information to the IRIS Hotline at hotline.iris@epa.gov or 202-566-1676.

EPA Contacts:

Please contact the IRIS Hotline for all questions concerning this assessment or IRIS, in general, at (202)566-1676 (phone), (202)566-1749 (FAX) or hotline.iris@epa.gov (internet address).

_II. Carcinogenicity Assessment for Lifetime Exposure

Substance Name — Merphos
CASRN — 150-50-5

This substance/agent has not undergone a complete evaluation and determination under US EPA's IRIS program for evidence of human carcinogenic potential.

_III. [reserved]
_IV. [reserved]
_V. [reserved]

_VI. Bibliography

Substance Name — Merphos
CASRN — 150-50-5
Last Revised — 11/01/1992

_VI.A. Oral RfD References

Abou-Donia, M.B., D.G. Graham, P.R. Timmons and B.L. Reichert. 1980. Late acute, delayed neurotoxic and cholinergic effects of S,S,S-tributyl phosphoro- trithioite (merphos) in hens. *Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol.* 53: 439-457.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1957. MRID No. 00089576. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1958a. MRID No. 00089576. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1958b. MRID No. 00089578. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1958c. MRID No. 00108720. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1960a. MRID No. 00089580. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Corporation. 1960b. MRID No. 00089572. Available from EPA. Write to FOI, EPA, Washington, DC 20460.

_VI.B. Inhalation RfC References

None available

_VI.C. Carcinogenicity Assessment References

None

_VII. Revision History

Substance Name — Merphos

CASRN — 150-50-5

Date	Section	Description
09/07/1988	I.A.	Oral RfD summary on-line
01/01/1989	All	CASRN corrected
04/01/1991	I.A.	Text edited
04/01/1991	I.A.4.	Citations added
04/01/1991	VI.	Bibliography on-line
01/01/1992	IV.	Regulatory Action section on-line
08/01/1992	I.B.	Inhalation RfC now under review
11/01/1992	I.B.	Not verified; data inadequate
11/01/1992	VI.B.	No references available
04/01/1997	III., IV., V.	Drinking Water Health Advisories, EPA Regulatory Actions, and Supplementary Data were removed from IRIS on or before April 1997. IRIS users were directed to the appropriate EPA Program Offices for this information.
10/28/2003	I.A.6., I.B.	Screening-Level Literature Review Findings message has been added.

_VIII. Synonyms

Substance Name — Merphos

CASRN — 150-50-5

Last Revised — 09/07/1988

- 150-50-5
- chemagro B-1776
- deleaf defoliant
- Easy Off-D
- folex
- Merphos
- phosphorotrithious acid, tributyl ester
- phosphorotrithious acid, s,s,s-tributyl ester
- S,S,S-tributyl phosphorotrithioite
- S,S,S-tributyl trithiophosphite
- tributyl phosphorotrithioite
- tributylthiofosfin

IRIS Home
Chronic Health
Hazards for Non-
Carcinogenic Effects
Reference Dose for
Chronic Oral

Exposure (RfD)

- Oral RfD Summary
- Principal and Supporting Studies
- Uncertainty and Modifying Factors
- Additional Studies/Comments
- Confidence in the Oral RfD
- EPA Documentation and Review

**Reference
Concentration for
Chronic Inhalation
Exposure (RfC)**

- Inhalation RfC Summary
- Principal and Supporting Studies
- Uncertainty and Modifying Factors
- Additional Studies/Comments
- Confidence in the Inhalation RfC
- EPA Documentation and Review

**Carcinogenicity
Assessment for
Lifetime Exposure****Evidence for Human
Carcinogenicity**

- Weight-of-Evidence Characterization
- Human Carcinogenicity Data
- Animal Carcinogenicity Data
- Supporting Data for Carcinogenicity

**Quantitative
Estimate of
Carcinogenic Risk
from Oral Exposure**

- Summary of Risk Estimates
- Dose-Response Data
- Additional Comments
- Discussion of Confidence

**Quantitative
Estimate of
Carcinogenic Risk
from Inhalation
Exposure**

- Summary of Risk Estimates
- Dose-Response Data
- Additional Comments
- Discussion of Confidence
- EPA Documentation, Review and, Contacts

Bibliography

Revision History

Synonyms