identical laboratory conditions, should be utilized since single LD_{50} values for chemicals can vary depending on experimental conditions (e.g., animal species, route of administration, etc.). The USA (CCD/435; 1974) also discussed the variability of LD_{50} values based on routes of exposure. The U.S. suggested that the military potential of supertoxic compounds is often closely related to toxicity by inhalation and so it seemed logical to establish a criterion based on the respiratory route of exposure as proposed by Canada (CCD/414; 1973). However, some chemicals (e.g., supertoxic carbamates), are not supertoxic by inhalation, but are extraordinarily toxic if carried into the body by a projectile which penetrates the skin. Thus, criteria based only on the respiratory route of exposure would not be sufficient.

The USA (CCD/435) agreed with Japan (CCD/374) that the proposed utilization of the s.c. or i.p. routes of exposure is less difficult and would be useful in supplementing the criterion based on the respiratory route. Since compounds, supertoxic by inhalation, would also be supertoxic by a parenteral route, these two routes of exposure were proposed. The s.c. route was particularly recommended because more data are available, for CW agents and also for mice than for any other animal species. The USA further suggested establishing an LD_{50} value of 0.5 mg/kg (s.c. mouse) as a limit to separate single purpose supertoxic agents from dual purpose chemicals (as suggested in CCD/301) .