

From the practical point of view however, a chemical which is slightly less toxic than 0.5 mg/kg but is suitable for weapons use on grounds of stability, ease of dissemination, appropriate persistence in the field etc. might be more susceptible to diversion for military use than a more toxic chemical which does not have these properties.

Thus for the purpose of this discussion chemicals with toxicity close to that defined as super-toxic lethal will be considered along with those falling unequivocally into the category for inclusion on the prohibited list.

Pharmaceuticals

A number of drugs used in the treatment of disease fall into the category of super-toxic lethal. These include:

- Digoxin - used in heart disease
- Phospholine - used in eye disease (glaucoma)
- Nitrogen mustard - cancer (Hodgkin's disease)
- Curare Derivatives - relaxation in anaesthesia.

These compounds are produced under tight control, both national and international. Further, they are dispensed in very small amounts. Diversion from permitted use would be almost impossible and certainly quite impractical. It is suggested that the Convention should take note of the special case presented by such pharmaceuticals.

Agricultural Chemicals

Some chemicals used extensively in agriculture have a mammalian toxicity in their pure form which is within or close to the defined limit. These chemicals include some carbamates used to control insect and other pests, some organophosphorus compounds with similar uses and the rodenticide, sodium fluoracetate. In many countries sodium fluoracetate can only be used by officers of the Department of Agriculture. It is not available for general farm use. Because of their toxicity these insecticides are produced in a dilute form.

Compounds such as these could be diverted to military use if obtained in a purified form. They would be less suitable for such use than sarin, soman and VX. Whether they would be more or less effective than phosgene and sulphur mustard is not known. However, it is clear that they must be subjected to an appropriate control régime. Let us explore several régimes.

1. They could be banned and monitored for non-production in the same way as nerve agents. Their use in agriculture would then be taken over by compounds which fall below the toxicity cut-off point. These new compounds could present a significant threat to the Convention, since reducing their