

Proposed Criteria of Lethality

Materials fulfilling any of the following criteria of lethality would be considered as potential agents of chemical warfare to be subject to a general prohibition (or, more particularly, to be considered as agents sufficiently lethal and militarily useful to be made subject of a ban on their manufacture):

1. Vapour-forming materials having lethality equal to or greater than that of reference substance (suggested standard: Phosgene) when administered by inhalation to animals of any of the common laboratory species (mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, cat or dog).
2. Percutaneously toxic materials having lethality equal to or greater than that of the reference substance (suggested standard: Nicotine (alkaloidal base), when administered percutaneously to any of the common laboratory species (mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, cat, dog or swine).
3. Materials having lethality equal to or greater than that of the reference substance (suggested standard: Neostigmine) when administered by subcutaneous injection to any of the common laboratory species (mouse, rat, rabbit, guinea pig, cat or dog).

The reasons for proposing these particular substances as reference materials are (a) that they are materials readily available commercially in many countries, (b) that they have levels of toxicity such as to minimize inclusion in a prohibition of less toxic materials which have legitimate uses (see Table I). It may be possible to establish a ban on manufacture, without interference in commercial uses, on all those agents having a lethality greater than these standards.