

Along with the considerable positive element, however, toxic products have meant new dangers and risks for man and his environment. These risks are not easily assessed because their consequences take a long time to appear; because those who enjoy the benefits of the new products are not the same as those who are exposed to the risks; because of the incipient state of research in this field and because of the many lacunae in our knowledge of it.

In all countries, questions of the harmful nature of chemicals are usually the responsibility of the institutes of hygiene and labour safety and the health and environmental organizations.

In this regard, there is wide-ranging international collaboration with various national and international bodies which study the toxic effects and maximum admissible doses in the working environment, and the symptomatology and treatment of poisoning by industrial chemicals.

For example, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists annually publishes a list of chemicals containing all the data referred to above.

The interesting thing about this publication is that it constitutes an open list, with values subject to annual review, and that proposals may be made for its amendment.

These proposals and the annual acceptance of substances for inclusion in the list must be accompanied by substantive evidence and tests.

It would be interesting to study the possibility of setting up a similar "open list" system for other harmful chemicals and important precursors, with annual registrations (and possibly exclusions) at the proposal of the countries concerned by the treaty, and with a technical report which would cover the synthesis of warfare agents containing the substances and possibly toxicity tests (of the precursors of the end products of organic synthesis of which they are part, or of the final physical mixture produced).

## II. Elaboration of recommendations for methods of aerosol inhalation toxicity determination

The toxicity of a chemical increases when it is administered by inhalation in the form of an aerosol.

Particles which are normally physiologically inert become aggressive when they are the carriers of toxic gases by adsorption. The gases are carried deep into the respiratory system, where they are deposited, producing centres of high toxin concentration.

The danger from chemicals is different when they merely pollute the environment and when their vapours are mixed with aerosols.