

GDCh-Advisory Committee
on Existing Chemicals (BUA)

BUA-Report 240

(Supplementary Reports X)

1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	(No. 46)
1-Methylnaphthalene/ 2-Methylnaphthalene/ 2,6-Dimethylnaphthalene	(No. 47)
2-Nitrophenol / 4-Nitrophenol	(No. 75)



S. Hirzel

Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft 2005

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Preface

The Advisory Committee on Existing Chemicals, BUA for short, was established in May 1982 to help the German federal government cope with the large task of dealing with existing chemicals. In an agreement between federal government, scientific community, and the chemical industry, it was associated with the German Chemical Society (GDCh, Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker) to ensure objective work carried out in accordance with scientific principles. Since the beginning of 2001 the BUA has been composed of scientists from the research areas of chemistry, analytics, monitoring, toxicology, primary and secondary exposition, aquatic and terrestrial toxicology as well as the fate and behaviour of compounds in water, soil, air. The BUA is supported by experts from federal government agencies and the German Chemical Industry Association (Verband der Chemischen Industrie [VCI]).

The concept of BUA – the cooperation between governmental agencies, industry and science – has proved itself reliable. No other national or international body has dealt with the ecological and health-related effects of as many existing chemicals as the BUA. On the national level, the BUA, up to 1997, had produced comprehensive reports on about 300 substances and carried out preliminary evaluation and classification (priority-setting) for approximately 200 more. The processes leading to priority-setting and the BUA reports are published to lend transparency to the Committee's work.

No other national or international body has dealt with the ecological and health-related effects of as many existing chemicals as the BUA. Upon the recommendation of the federal government, the BUA has participated as a Peer-Review Group in the evaluation of ICCA-compounds (ICCA: International Council of Chemical Associations) since 2000 and also acts as the Contact Point in the OECD-HPV-Chemicals Programme (High Production Volume). The goal of the initiative is on the one hand to complete the data on the HPV chemicals and on the other to undertake an internationally coordinated evaluation of their hazard potential.

Due to the fact that the EU is currently only examining chemicals with volumes over 1 000 tonnes/year, the BUA began an additional national project in 1997, which also selects and assesses existing chemicals with a lower production volume in the range of 100 - 1000 tonnes/year (jato). Comprehensive reports are published on chemicals suspected of having a hazardous potential. If the data available for substance assessment are insufficient, the gaps in knowledge are documented and, if necessary, investigations recommended. The current band, the tenth supplementary report, is such a supplementary report. Thus a basis for an evaluation of such chemicals is provided. The BUA Reports serve the national government as a basis for prophylactic measures regarding chemicals which could be potentially hazardous to the environment or to the health of the general public or workers

Weihenstephan
June, 2003

Helmut Greim
BUA Chairman