



ACC's Principles for Improving Chemical Hazard and Risk Assessments

Assessments should focus on understanding the inherent properties of substances in order to determine the likelihood of harm from a specific exposure. The public, businesses and regulators look to government assessments for reliable information about the potential hazards and risks associated with chemicals.

Identify Key Science Issues Prior to Initiation of Assessment

- Discuss the purpose, scope and technical approaches
- Engage stakeholders

Apply Objective Criteria

- Develop and apply consistent criteria for selecting and evaluating a study, before an assessment begins
- Evaluate all studies to determine their quality, relevance and reliability

Ensure Assessments are Transparent

- Disclose key information and assumptions used to develop assessments and reach conclusions
- Make materials, including important data sets, publicly available

Conduct Scientific Peer Review by Independent Experts

- Ensure peer reviewers are fully independent from the program office issuing the assessment
- Evaluate peer review panels for conflicts of interest; ensure panels contain a balance of perspectives and appropriate technical expertise

Use Modern Science and Tools

- Use relevant data
- Consider how chemicals act in the body
- Evaluate chemicals at relevant exposure levels

Integrate Evidence

- Give the greatest weight to information from the highest-quality and most-relevant studies
- Transparently and objectively integrate evidence to make realistic determinations of hazards and risks; consider all types of evidence

Characterize Hazards and Risks Fully and Accurately

- Present hazards and risks in an easy-to-understand manner to stakeholders and risk managers
- Present a range of plausible values, including central estimates when going beyond a screening level assessment

Improve Accountability

- Use an independent accountability procedure to verify that revised assessments are accurate and responsive to scientific and peer review

RESULT: Public Trust in High-Quality Risk Assessment