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ANSI Committee N13

Designated
Original

Mr. Walter Cool
Occupational Health Standards Branch
Office of Standards Development

OP-713-4

OCT 25 1979

N13.14 (formerly N721)
"Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium"

Dr. John W. Poston
Chairman, ANSI Committee N13
School of Nuclear Engineering
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

Dear Chairman Poston:

We have reviewed the comments on N13.14 (formerly N721), "Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium", as requested by your memorandum of October 15, 1979.

Consideration of the standard within the guidance that a negative ballot should be cast only when the document in question is less desirable than no standard, leads us to reaffirm our "yes" vote of August 8, 1979. However, the reservations expressed by NRC staff, and reflected in our letter, appear to be shared by a number of the other voters. It would be desirable to request the Working Group to consider the comments and to develop appropriate changes to the standard,

Sincerely,

Walter S. Cool Member, N13

15/

Dr. John V. Nehemias Alternate Member

cc: MaryJo McCarrick
N13 Staff Assistant
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20014

Task No: NA

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SECRETARIAT-ANSI COMMITTEE N13 (RADIATION PROTECTION)

JOHN W. POSTON, Ph.D.
CHAIRMAN, ANSI COMMITTEE N13
SCHOOL OF NUCLEAR ENGINEERING
GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ATLANTA, GA 30332
(J04) 894-3724

RICHARD J. BURK. JR.
SECRETARY. ANSI COMMITTEE NI3
4720 MONTGOMERY LANE. SUITE 508
186THESDA, MD 20014
(301) 654-3080

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 1979

TO: N13.14 Voters

FROM: John W. Poston, N13 Chairman & WP

SUBJ: N13.14 (formerly N721)

In accordance with ANSI procedure 4.12.5, enclosed please find an unresolved negative N13.14 (was N721) ballot with comments as submitted by the EPA representative, R.H. Johnson, Jr. In addition, copies of affirmative ballots with comments are enclosed. Please review all these materials and, after careful consideration, notify N13 in Bethesda if you wish to change your vote to negative. Please note that the prescribed time period for this action is 30 days (rather than the usual 60-day period), therefore November 15 is the deadline for receipt in Bethesda.

This is an important standard. I again request that each of you give all the comments careful consideration.

JWP/mjmc

cc: Bryce L. Rich, HPSSC Chairman MaryJo McCarrick, N13 Staff Assistant Mary Vaca, ANSI

LETTER BALLOT

ANSI COMMITTEE N13

Topic: Final Approval of Proposed Standard N721

Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium

Authorized By: John W. Poston, N13 Chairman

Distributed By: MaryJo McCarrick, N13 Staff Assistant, on June 5, 1979

RETURN TO: Health Physics Society, 4720 Montgomery Lane, Bethesda, MD 20014

DUE DATE: August 6, 1979

SHALL THE N13 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF STANDARDS REVIEW THAT THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD N721 BE APPROVED AS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD?

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

see attached comments of J. Anies

John Porton Jote on would would brut this FOR INFORMATION ANSI COMMITTEE N13 FOR INFORMATION

Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium

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I Vote: () Yes

(LY NO*

() Abstain*

NameJoH	NA. Auxier	Signature . 6. Curkin
	Print or Type	- Cagar
Organization Represented	DRNL	Date June 20, 79

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

Values in table one are too high for Tritisted Water for Bench-top operations. Caveats Not withstanding, the obvious conclusion of those desiring such operations is that its O.K. to operate w/o survetllance on the banch -The Level for tritioled water on the bench should be Lowered by at least a foctor of 10.

JUL 9 157

ANSI COMMITTEE N13

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Name LARRY Print or Type

Organization Print or Type

Represented Present Plan Date 6/23/79

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over): Lee comment shee.

COMMENT ON DRAFT N721

In Appendix C, page 28, 3rd paragraph, the meaning of one sentence is not clear.

If the intent is,

(H_C estimated from absorbed HTO) > 90% total H_C , then I propose:

"....However, the dose equivalent to the whole body estimated from absorbed tritiated water following an acute exposure to tritiated water is generally considered to be at least 90% of the total committed dose equivalent."

If the intent is,

(H_C due to absorbed HTO) > 90% total H_C , then I propose:

"....However, the committed dose equivalent from absorbed tritiated water is generally considered to be at least 90% of the total committed dose equivalent to the whole body."

RECEIVED

AUG 10 1979

LETTER BALLOT

ANSI COMMITTEE N13

Topic: Final Approval of Proposed Standard N721

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SHALL THE N13 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF STANDARDS REVIEW THAT THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD N721 BE APPROVED AS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD?

I Vote: (X) Yes

() No*

() Abstain*

Name Marrin & Sullivon Signature Marrin R. Lalling.

Print or Type

Organization

Represented Edison Electric Institute Date 8-2-79

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

See Attached



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

77 BEALE STREET . SAN FRANCIS . CAL FORNIA 04108 . (417) 152 4.77 . 04 8 0 37. 6597

July 3, 1979

Mr. James E. Sohngen Edison Electric Institute 1140 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Sohngen:

I have the following comments on the proposed Standard ANSI N721, "Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium."

- Paragraph 6.3.4 should be eliminated. Reason: unnecessary and confusing.
- Paragraph 6.3 should be modified as follows "...bioassay program required by the criteria of Section 5 to assure..."
 New wording is underlined. Reason: clarity.
- Paragraph 6.3.5 insert "conducted" after "...shall be..."
 Reason: clarity.
- 4. Paragraph 6.4 "Diagnostic bioassay". This type of bioassay should be defined in Section 4. Is a "diagnostic bioassay" any different than a "routine bioassay" or is it just performed more frequently?
- Paragraph 8.8 How is the individual to produce a sample thereafter? Suggest rewording.
 - Also, is it reasonable to assume that tritium concentration in the urine within one hour of exposure is representative of the average concentration in body water? A far better sample would be a specimen from the morning voiding the day after the suspected exposure.
- Section 8 takes a lot of verbage to cover relatively little ground. For instance, I believe the first two sentences of Paragraph 8.13 could be eliminated with no loss of comprehension.

Also, are Paragraphs 8.4 and 8.5 really necessary? Perhaps they are misplaced and should be in Appendix B.

7. Paragraph 10.1.2 - third sentence change "Table 10" to "Table 2."

If there are any questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Jenckes

Radiation Protection Advisor

TAJ:saw

RECEIVED

AUG 6 1979

LETTER BALLOT

ANSI COMMITTEE N13

Topic: Final Approval of Proposed Standard N721

Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium

Authorized By: John W. Poston, N13 Chairman

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SHALL THE N13 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF STANDARDS REVIEW THAT THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD N721 BE APPROVED AS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD?

I Vote: (x) Yes

() No*

() Abstain*

Name Harry F	Schulte	Signature //		- /	1
Organization	Print or Type				7.4.1.
Represented	NCRP	Date	Aug.	1.	1979

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

I think this is a very good standard and hence have voted in favor of adoption. As a recent addition to the N13 Committee I do have a few comments which I would appreciate having passed on to the Committee who wrote it. On page 4, paragraph 4.2 I don't like the term "quanity of radioactivity". This implies that radioactivity is a thing when it is really a process.

I cannot really understand paragraph 8.8

In paragraph 8.10 the term "standard errer" is used. This is really an ill-defined term and if "standard deviation" is meant that term should be used. Actually, since the result is expressed in percent it should be "relative standard deviation" or "coefficient of varation."

In appendix A, Last sentence of third paragraph.— The wording "Yood is judged to give 10% the protection" is somewhat unclear. 10% the protection of what? It really means thatit assumes that the hood will reduce the uptake to 0.1% or it reduces the uptake by a factor of 10 below that assumed where no hood is used.

These comments are merely points of clarification and not of substance and that is why I voted in favor of adoption.

RECEIVED

JUL 9 1979

LETTER BALLOT

ANSI COMMITTEE N13

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I Vote: (Yes

() No*

() Abstain*

Name T. P. Loftus	\$	Signature T.	2 \$ 11
Organization Pri	nt or Type		- gy us
Represented Dosimet	ry Group, Nat. Bur. o	of Date	July 3, 1979
	Standards		0417 3, 1373

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

- p. 4 The term "Dose Equivalent" should be defined.
- p. 5 5.1 This is very difficult to understand, perhaps because the last sentence contains about sixty words.

Shouldn't terms be defined before they are used. Why should it be necessary to look in section 6 for the definition of a term used in section 5.

How can the preparatory bioassay which is a "base line" measurement affect the uncertainty in estimating the total dose equivalent.

- p. 7 I don't understand the need for the "Quantities tabulated are:".
- p. 9 The last sentence implies that the committed dose equivalent is reduced by repeated measurements.

Continued

- p. 12 8.8 . . . "and produce a sample thereafter."?

 This phrase should be clarified or deleted.
- p. 13 9.2 This part is very difficult to read and understand. It sounds as if one estimates an upper limit to the dose equivalent in order to choose a method for estimating the dose equivalent. It sounds bootstrappy.

In the last sentence it reads as if you receive a dose from the bioassay results.

- p. 14 9.4, line 4. Is it the accuracy of the method that is to be confirmed or the method itself?
 - 9.5 Definition of Hc should read, " . . . equivalent calculated from . . . "
- p. 15 9.6 Equations I and 2 are inconsistent.

The rest of the standard appears to be in good shape, although I have the same problem with paragraph 3 in Appendix C as I had with section 9.2.

I have not checked the equations after Eq. 1 and 2; I will leave that to those who are expert in this field.

AUG 10 1979

LETTER BALLOT

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I Vote: () Yes

No*

() Abstain*

Name Raymond H. Johnson, Jr. Signature Raymond A. Johnson, fr.,

Print or Type

Organization
Represented 1, S. Environmental Protection Agencybate Aug. 2, 1979

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

(See attached comments).

RAYMOND H. JOHNSON, JR.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Stephen T. Bard

Comments on ANSI-N721 Standard

Internal Dosimetry Standards for Tritium

General Comments

These standards are developed on the premise that tritium (HTO) is eliminated from the body with a ten day half-time. Since approximately 33% of the body hydrogen is associated with an organic fraction and it has been determined that there are two long-term compartments, some attempt should be made to account for this in the standard. This could be accomplished by using a simple three component exponential model for acute exposures and a specific activity approach for chronic intake. If the committee feels that this unecessarily complicates the method, then the additional dose commitment from organic labeling could be accounted for by increasing the quality factor by an appropriate value.

In its present form, the dose model, which is based upon bioassay data, will always result in an underestimate of the dose commitment.

Specific Comments

Section 9.0 Interpretation of Bicassay Results.

13)

Equations 1 and 2 of Section 9.6 provide an estimate of the whole body dose commitment to body water from an acute intake of tritium. It does not, however, consider the dose received to tissues due to organic labeling from HTO.

Consider an acute $^3\mathrm{H}$ intake resulting in a urine sample containing 10 Ci/liter (C_o). The predicted dose commitment from equation 2 (C_{T=0}) would be:

$$H = 4.2$$
 (10 µCi/liter)

H = 42 mrem

In order to compare this to the dose commitment from organic tritium this may be rearranged into the integral form:

$$T - 1/2 = 10 \text{ days}$$

1 liter = 1 kg

4

It has been determined from the work of Snyder (Sn-68), Sanders and Reinig (Sa-65) and Bennett (Be-72) that hydrogen from body water is incorporated into two relatively long term hydrogen pools with half times of about 45 days and 400 days at the rate of about 0.055 liters (H₂0) and 0.01 liter (H₂0) day respectively.

At equilibrium, these two pools would consist of about 1000 gms of hydrogen derived directly from body water.

Total 1040 gH

)

The uptake of ³H into these two compartments from a 10 µCi/liter acute body water burden concentration would be calculated as follows:

Then:

$$Q_2 = 145 \mu Ci - day \times 0.055 liter = 8.0 \mu Ci$$
liter day

Estimated "tissue" dose

These two long-term compartments are not likely to be tissue specific, however, if we consider tissue to be 10% hydrogen by weight, the associated tissue mass would be:

$$Q_2 = 400 \text{ gm H/0.10} = 4.0 \text{ kg tissue}$$

$$Q_3 = 640 \text{ g H/0.10} = 6.4 \text{ kg tissue}$$

The time integrated activity would then be:

$$Q_2 = 8$$
 Ci x 45 days = 133 µCi-days
4.0 kg .693 kg

It was estimated that there are about 1000 gms of hydrogen associated with the two long-term compartments. Since there are about 2400 gms of organic hydrogen in the body we can make the conservative assumption that 1400 gms H(2400-1000) are in labile positions and readily exchange with H_{20} (or HTO). The dose commitment of this 4th compartment is:

In summary each of the four hydrogen comparments would recieve about the same dose commitment:

It seems, therefore, that the dosimetry of tritium in the body is not quite as simple as it appears and that the use of a one compartment model will always understimate dose commitments even from acute intakes of tritium.

Section 9.6

Equation 1 calculates the dose equivalent (4) between bioassay samples while the action guides appear to be based upon the infinite

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dose commitment. It might be advisable, therefore, to insert an equation (1.5) between 1 and 2 for calculating the total dose commitment when $C_{\rm T}$ does not equal zero.

0

()

$$H = 0.3 \text{ C} (1-e^{-kT})$$
 (eq. 1.5)

where:
$$k = \ln C / C$$

$$0 T$$
T

9.4 2 uCi/liter Zero Cutoff.

The use of a 2 uCi/liter zare cutoff contradicts the action guide lines established in Table 2. A chronic 2 uCi/liter body water burden is about 10% of the present maximum occupational limit with an associated dose rate of 0.5 rem/year. It would therefore appear permissible to allow a chronic dose rate of 0.5 rem/year to go unrecorded while an acute dose commitment of 0.5 rem requires some remedial action.

A zero cutoff should be eliminated or reduced to a limit where it does not conflict with the action level guides.

20

10.1.1 For Purposes of Preparatory Evaluation

This section states that the previous radiation history of new employees will be reviewed and that this will include the results of new bloassay data. The kinetics given in Section 9.0, however, are not sufficient to evaluate dose commitments for some former tritium workers returning to the industry.

Figure 1 is a long-term tritium excretion curve from a former tritium worker. Sampling was initiated about six months following termination of employment. A specific activity model from the results of the first sample (0.055 uCi/i) would indicate a body burden of:

0.055 uCi/liter x 43 liters = 2.4 uCi

The actual body burden at t = 0 is, however,:

$$Q_3 = \frac{0.055 \text{ uCi/l} \times 3 \text{ l/day}}{0.002 \text{ day}^{-1}}$$

Q3 = 83 uCi

It was calculated in the previous section that this long-term component (Q_3) was associated with about 6.4 kg of tissue so that the time integrated unit weight concentration would be:

$$\frac{83 \text{ uCi day}}{6.4 \text{ kg} .002} = 6500 \frac{\text{uCi - day}}{\text{kg}}$$

This is significantly higher than if it were assumed that 2.4 uCi were distributed equally throughout 43 kg of water with a 10 day half-time:

$$\frac{2.4 \text{ uCi}}{43 \text{ kg}} = \frac{\text{day}}{0.693} = \frac{0.8 \text{ uCi} - \text{day}}{\text{kg}}$$

It is thus possible to underestimate a unit tissue dose by a factor of 8000 in this instance.

References

- (Sn-68) W. S. Snyder et al. "Urinary Excretion of Tritium Following Exposure to Man to HTO - A Two Exponential Model," <u>Physics in</u> <u>Medicine and Biology</u>, 13, 547-559 (1968).
- 2. (Sa-65) Sanders, S. M. and Reinig, W. C. "Assessment of Tritium in Man," "Proceedings of Diagnosis and Treatment of Deposited Radionuclide Symposium," Richland, Washington, May 1965.
- (Be-72) B. G. Bennett. "The Radiation Dose Due to the Acute Intake of Tritium by Man," HASL, 1972.

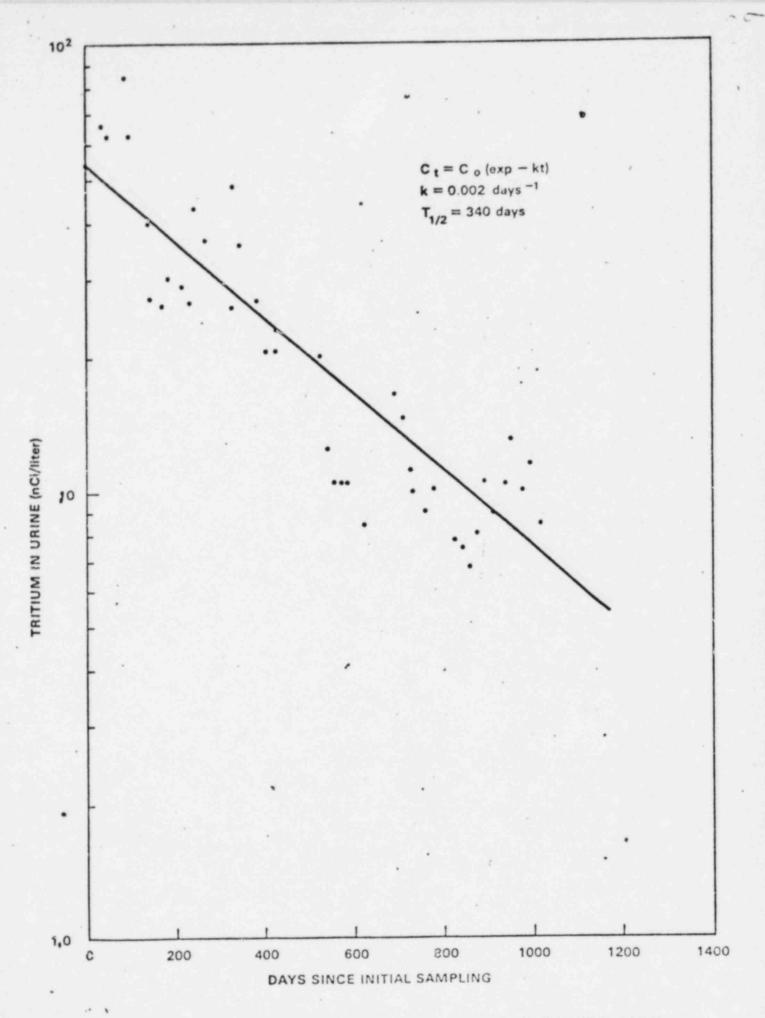


FIGURE 1 LONG TERM TRITIUM EXCRETION DATA (MOGHISSI 1978)

LETTER BALLOT

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SHALL THE N13 COMMITTEE RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF STANDARDS REVIEW THAT THE REVISED PROPOSED STANDARD N721 BE APPROVED AS AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD?

I Vote: (Yes

() No*

() Abstain*

Name Walter S.	Cool	Signature	Walter	8 Comp
Organi Patidohn	v. Print or Type			hekenny
Represented U S	Nuclear Regulatory	Commission	Bate 8	18/79

*If checked, explanatory remarks need be provided in the COMMENTS Section.

COMMENTS (below and over):

Follow

COMMENTS ON THE MAY '79 REVISION OF N721

On page 15, in equations 4 and 6, we would have preferred to have the hait life shown, either as a number or even T₁. This would have made it a bit easier for users who may choose to follow the excretion of the individual involved and to calculate the dose to the individual based on the observed half life. Further, it would be of some help to express the equations such that it is very clear which items are included in the exponential functions.

On page 20, lines 6 and 7, it would be helpful if the words "if any" could be added to read: "...All special dosimetry evaluations shall be dated and signed by the person making the evaluation and computerized records, if any, shall be traceable to the responsible person." The intent of the change being to avoid any implication that computerized records are required.