

## Committee for Risk Assessment RAC

### Annex 2

# Response to comments document (RCOM) to the Opinion proposing harmonised classification and labelling at Community level of gallium arsenide

ECHA/RAC/CLH-0000000792-73-03/A2

Adopted 25 May 2010

Annex 2 Comments received on the Annex XV report and response to comments provided by the dossier submitter (excl. confidential information)

#### COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON CLH: PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

Substance name: Gallium arsenide

**CAS number:** 1303-00-0 **EC number:** 215-114-8

#### **General comments**

Date	Submitted by	Organisation	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
		/MSCA			
2009/07/16		Hungary /	In view of the experimental data and	Thank you for your support.	Agree with MS and proposal
		National	the precautionary principle the		if animal data are assessed
		Institute of	proposed classification and labelling		without looking at human
		Chemical	can be supported.		data for carcinogenicity, but
		Safety			recommend read-across to
					other arsenic substances and
					hence stricter classification
					for carcinogenicity: Carc.
					Cat. 1 T; R45 (DSD), Carc.
					1A, H350 (CLP).
2009/06/23	Jean-Luc Ledys	France /	GaAs is a solid crystalline material	This argument is not relevant	Agree
		SOITEC /	which does not allow single free	in the scope of a C&L	
		PICOGIGA	elements (As or Ga) to escape during	dossier.	
		INTERNATI	normal processing operation.		
		ONAL	This material is used in any RF		
			components (switches or Power		
			amplifiers) utilized in wireless		
			handsets or infrastructures. No		
			replacement solution is known today.		

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		was higher $(1,5 \mu g/g)$ in the
		testes than in blood or serum
		$(0.05 \text{ and } 0.08  \mu\text{g/g},$
		respectively), suggesting that
		Gallium itself may mediate a
	Especially in rats, reprotoxic	primary effect in the testes.
	findings such as absolute	
	weights of the left testis,	
	cauda epididymis and	
	epididymis, spermatozoa	
	motility were decreased in	
	males exposed to 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	OK
	onward also mean body	
	weights (-10% of controls)	
	and body weight gain were	
	significantly reduced in	
	males of the 75 mg/m <sup>3</sup>	
	treated group. Therefore,	_
	reprotoxicity can be	For transparency we have
	considered as primary effect.	inserted the table of the
The following points should be		summary of the 2-year
The following points should be improved in the report:		carcinogenesis and genetic
improved in the report: Some of the described effects are not	Remark taken into account.	toxicology studies of gallium
clearly allocated to a dose in the text	Background document	arsenide in the summary
of the report. This should be	changed accordingly.	NTP report into the BD, as it
completed.		is, with reference to NTP.
compicied.		
Tables of the central studies (14 weeks		
and 2 years in rats and mice) that	W14 "-6-" 4 'C'	
and 2 years in rais and inice) that	Would you refer to specific	

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		clearly assort effects to doses should be added. This would enable a transparent dose by dose correlation of haematological, gonadal and lung effects including carcinogenicity.	know? The referred studies are huge	
2009/07/24 Sylvi Claussnitz er	Germany / Wirtschaftsve reinigung Metalle	Wirtschafts Vereinigung Metalle (WVM), the German Non-Ferrous Metals' Association, represents the German non ferrous (NF) metals industry towards politics and economy. We support our members in regulatory, occupational health & safety affairs in order to maintain and establish measures at a very high level. Today, WVM has 639 member companies, including producers and processors of rare metals and compounds.  Some of our members also produce and handle arsenic and arsenic compounds as this is a natural		

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component of several non ferrous
metal ores and concentrates. In
addition, we represent one of the
leading producers of arsenic metal.
Therefore, we recently took over the
role of being the secretariat for an
arsenic consortium that will be
functional in the coming weeks.
Gallium arsenide is within the scope
of this consortium on arsenic and
arsenic compounds. In principle, we
appreciate the involvement of
harmonized classification and would
like to take the opportunity to bring
At first we want to express the
stakeholders in the process of

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	he respective substances. There	cannot take this remark into	
	lready is a harmonized classification	account.	
fc	for Gallium arsenide (R23/25 and		
R	R50/53). Consequently, industry will		
fu fu	fulfil their obligation and will submit		
th	he registration dossier based on the		
pı	present legal classification as foreseen		
u u	inder REACH. This is also reflected		
in	n the envisaged registration deadlines		
	ubmitted by the companies' pre-		
	egistrations.		
l W	We would like to emphasize that the		
	proposal for a harmonized	Available data already allow	Agree
	elassification for Gallium arsenide	to propose a harmonised	
	elearly interferes with the ongoing	classification as T; R48/23	
	lossier generation. Until the end of	Repro. Cat. 2; R60	
	2010, industry will in any case prepare	*	
	huge amount of dossiers. The dossier	Carc. Cat 3; R40	
	or Gallium arsenide is part of our	We thanks WVM for their	
	consortium work and will be finalized	involvement regarding this	
	intil the appropriate registration	substance but unless	
	leadline taking into account all	contradictory data presented	
	vailable data and generated new	we believe that Gallium	
	tudies for identified data gaps. Any	arsenide harmonised	
	parallel discussions for a harmonized	classification should be	
1 -	classification interfere with this	continued.	
	process without any obvious benefit		
_	•		
	or the safety and health of workers or		
	consumers. A scientifically sound		

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			evaluation of the proposed classification is not feasible within the very limited commenting period. We therefore emphasize that ongoing harmonisation process interfering with the registration process should be delayed.		
2009/07/25	Stephanie Castorina	United States / IPC	IPC comments have been uploaded on the RAC CIRCA, which also contains copies of several articles (see reference list).	directly into the document in	
2009/07/27		Germany / Freiberger Compound Materials GmbH	Freiberger Compound Materials GmbH has longstanding experience in the field of gallium arsenide production. We are the manufacturer with the highest tonnage in the EU and supply gallium arsenide substrates to the major semiconductor companies in the world. We are always aware of the importance of health protection and industrial safety which are an integral part of our business policy and		

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management system. All legal regulations have always been	
observed.	
GaAs substrates are used for high-frequency communication, such as in mobile phones and wireless networks.  These applications will grow in the future since the amount of information being sent around the world is constantly increasing.	
We also take full responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the new chemicals legislation 1907/2006/EG.  This means that we will prepare the REACH registration dossiers, respecting the registration deadlines resulting from the tonnage band and	
classifications of the respective substances. There already is a harmonized classification for gallium arsenide (R23/25 and R50/53). This proposal has been made	Agree.
Consequently, we will fulfil their obligation and will submit the registration dossier based on the present legal classification as foreseen Commission could take your	
under REACH. This is also reflected in the envisaged registration deadline remark into account.	

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2009/07/27	Ireland /	we would like to emphasize that the proposal for a harmonized classification for gallium arsenide clearly interferes with the ongoing dossier generation. Until the end of 2010, industry will in any case prepare a huge amount of dossiers. The dossier for gallium arsenide is part of our consortium work and will be finalized until the appropriate registration deadline taking into account all available data and generated new studies for identified data gaps. Any parallel discussions for a harmonized classification interfere with this process without any obvious benefit for the safety and health of workers or consumers. A scientifically sound evaluation of the proposed classification is not feasible within the very limited commenting period. We therefore emphasize that the ongoing harmonization process interfering with the registration process should be delayed.  The original document containing all	Available data already allow to propose a harmonised classification as T; R48/23 Repro. Cat. 2; R60 Carc. Cat 3; R40 We thanks Freiberger Compound Materials for their involvement regarding this substance but unless contradictory data presented we believe that Gallium arsenide harmonised classification should be continued.	
		the comments is uploaded on the RAC		

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	Safety Authority	CIRCA (see reference list).  Justification that action is required on a Community-wide basis.  Full comment: Given that repeated dose toxicity is not a harmonised endpoint, we feel that the justification provided to classify this substance for this endpoint is not adequate. It may be beneficial to include in this section of the Annex XV report information concerning the use of the substance and the potential number of exposed workers in the EU. Also, we note that the justification refers to indium phosphide, rather than gallium arsenide.		As a rule RAC has opinion on to justifications.	no
2009/07/28	United States / Recapture Metals Inc.	Recapture Metals Inc. is a company located in the United States of America and is in the business of providing recycling services for the gallium arsenide industry. Of course part of this industry is located in the EU.  It is our desire that gallium arsenide be correctly clasified for REACH registration. A scientifically sound evaluation of the proposed	Available data already allow to propose a harmonised classification as T; R48/23		

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			classification is not feasible within the very limited commenting period. We therefore emphasize that the ongoing harmonization process interfering with the registration process should be delayed. This opinion is shared with others that are in this industry.  Thank you for your consideration in these important matters.	Repro. Cat. 2; R60 Carc. Cat 3; R40 We thanks Recapture Metals Inc. for their involvement regarding this substance but unless contradictory data presented we believe that Gallium arsenide harmonised classification should be continued.	Agree with MS and proposal if animal data are assessed without looking at human data for carcinogenicity, but recommend read-across to other arsenic substances and hence stricter classification for carcinogenicity: Carc. Cat. 1 T; R45 (DSD), Carc. 1A, H350 (CLP).
2009/07/27	Mirko Pavela	Slovakia / CMK, s.r.o.	CMK, s.r.o. is a small private company and one of not large commercial producers of Gallium arsenide in Europe. Our capacity for GaAs is more than 1 tone so we intend to register GaAs after new chemical legislation. GaAs is widely using mainly in communication industry. After all predictions GaAs applications will grow in the future permanently. We take care for health protection and industrial safety of each of our employee. This is one part of		

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our business policy and management system.		
From this point of view we have an interest to involve in the process of harmonized classification and would like to take the opportunity to bring our opinion forward during this phase of internet consultation.		
We take full responsibility to fulfil our obligations under the new chemicals legislation 1907/2006/EG. We will prepare the REACH registration dossiers, respecting the registration deadlines resulting from the tonnage band and classifications of the respective substances. There already is a harmonized classification for gallium arsenide (R23/25 and R50/53). Consequently, we will fulfil our obligation and will submit the registration dossier based on the present legal classification as foreseen under REACH. This is also reflected in the envisaged registration deadline submitted by our pre-registration.	a while ago to ECB. We	OK
We would like to emphasize that the proposal for a harmonized		

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classification for gallium arsenide clearly interferes with the ongoing dossier generation. Until the end of 2010, will be surely prepared a lot of dossiers. The dossier for gallium arsenide is part of GaAs consortium work and will be finalized until the appropriate registration deadline taking into accounts all available data and generated new studies for identified data gaps. Any parallel discussions for a harmonized classification interfere with this process without any obvious benefit for the safety and health of workers or consumers. A scientifically sound evaluation of the proposed classification is not feasible within the very limited commenting period. We therefore emphasize that the ongoing harmonization process interfering with the registration process should be delayed.	classification as T; R48/23 Repro. Cat. 2; R60 Carc. Cat 3; R40 We thanks WVM for their involvement regarding this substance but unless contradictory data presented we believe that Gallium arsenide harmonised classification should be continued.	Agree with MS and proposal if animal data are assessed without looking at human data for carcinogenicity, but recommend read-across to other arsenic substances and hence stricter classification for carcinogenicity: Carc. Cat. 1 T; R45 (DSD), Carc. 1A, H350 (CLP).
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Carcinogenicity

Date	Submitted by	Organisation /MSCA	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
2009/07/10	Agneta Ohlsson	Sweden /	Cancer	Your remark has been taken	Agree with FR and proposal

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Swedish Chemicals Agency	IARC has evaluated gallium arsenide 2006 in the monograph number 86 to be carcinogenic to humans (Group 1). There are two reasons for their decision 1) there are two separate mechanisms of action possible for gallium arsenide to cause cancer (gallium ion moiety causing lung cancer and arsenic and its compounds are Group I carcinogens according to IARC) and 2) the gallium arsenide once in the body releases a small amount of its arsenic and also gallium.  It is difficult to understand how the proposal to classify gallium arsenide as carcinogenic at all when it is assumed that no release of either ion moiety is foreseen. However, it is reported in the proposal that arsenic and gallium concentrations have been measured in urine and faeces in rat and hamster after intrathraceal instillation of gallium arsenide. It seems to be very clear that both gallium and arsenic ions can act in the body.	into account. The background document has been modified. However, based on 67/548 and 1272/2008 directives criteria and based on available data, we propose gallium arsenide to be classified as Carc. Cat. 3, R40 and Carc. 2 – H351 respectively.	
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gallium arsenide to be released as its	
two ion moieties in biological fluids.	
They say "Although the solubility of	
gallium arsenide in pure water is very	
low, its dissolution in body fluids is	
greatly enhanced by endogenous	
chelating molecules. When incubated	
in artificial body fluid (Gamble's	
solution), gallium arsenide	
progressively releases both gallium	
and arsenic. A selective leaching	
appears to take place, probably by	
chelating components of the solution,	
whereby more arsenic than gallium is	
found in solution. The gallium	
arsenide particle surface is enriched in	
arsenic, which migrates from the bulk,	
and which is ultimately oxidized to	
arsenic oxide (Pierson et al., 1989).	
When dissolution of gallium arsenide	
was tested in vitro in phosphate buffer	
and various acids and bases, the	
amount of dissolved arsenic was	
highest in phosphate buffer	
(Yamauchi et al., 1986). These	
observations help to explain how	
arsenic may be released from inhaled	Agree with commenting
gallium arsenide particles."	MSCA.
Therefore, the classification of gallium	

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2009/06/23	Jean-Luc Ledys	France / SOITEC / PICOGIGA INTERNATI	arsenide should be in agreement of IARC; Carc. Cat. 1; R45.  Picogiga is using large quantity of that material since 1985 with a drastic medical follow up of the concerned people: No demonstrated impact.		
2009/07/24	Frauke Schröder	ONAL Germany / Baua	Carc. Cat 3; R40 is proposed.  Based on the data described for carcinogenicity the justification for classification of gallium arsenide is not fully plausible. No data on human cancer were available and the reported data in experimental animals were considered as borderline for carcinogenicity.  In the "Summary and discussion of carcinogenicity" section 5.7.5 only a short summary is provided whereas some discussions are expected for the proposed classification and assumed mode of action/ mechanisms to explain and support the conclusion for classification.  In the German CA's opinion justification solely based on the results in experimental animals is insufficient. The evidence of carcinogenicity in	Your remark has been taken into account. The background document has been modified. Detailed MoA taken into account into IARC evaluation has been added together with an explanation why effects might be restricted to one specie, one sex.	data for carcinogenicity, but recommend read-across to other arsenic substances and hence stricter classification

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	T	I	T	T.
			animal studies was considered of	
			limited value since these results did	
			not provide sufficient evidence for	
			carcinogenicity of gallium arsenide.	
			The data suggest a carcinogenic effect	
			for gallium arsenide based on	
			increased incidence of benign and	
			malignant neoplasms in the lung, and	
			increased incidences of benign	
			neoplasms of the adrenal medulla and	
			increased incidences of mononuclear	
			cell leukaemia in female rats. But	
			these data are limited for making a	
			definitive evaluation because the	
			evidence of carcinogenicity is	
			restricted to one species and to one sex	
			only (female F344/N rats) in one	
			study; additionally it was reported that	
			no evidence of carcinogenic activity in	
			male rats, or in male or female mice	
			was provided. Therefore, additional	
			data are required to provide sufficient	
			evidence for carcinogenicity of	
			gallium arsenide. Furthermore,	
			additional considerations and other	
			contributing factors should be used in	
			evaluating the tumour findings to	
			justify the classification proposal.	
2009/07/27		Ireland /	The original document containing all	
		Health &	the comments is uploaded on Circa	
L	1			1

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Safety	(see reference list).	
Authority		
	We can agree to classification of	Summary table from NTP-
	gallium arsenide as Carc. Cat 3 R40	study is inserted in the BD
	(Carc. 2 H351). However, we feel that	
	the extent/severity and incidence of	
	the non-neoplastic lesions in the	
	exposed animals could be further	
	described.	

Mutagenicity

Date	Submitted by	Organisation /MSCA	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
2009/06/23	Jean-Luc Ledys	France / SOITEC / PICOGIGA INTERNATI ONAL	Picogiga is using large quantity of that material since 1985 with a drastic medical follow up of the concerned people: No demonstrated impact.		

**Toxicity to reproduction** 

Date	<b>Submitted by</b>	Organisation	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
		/MSCA			
2009/07/10	Agneta Ohlsson	Sweden /	The proposed classification as T;	Thanks for your support.	
		Swedish	R48/23 and Repro. Cat. 2; R60 is		
		Chemicals	supported. The serious damage to the		
		Agency	lungs and male sex organs and sperm		
			quality and production that are		
			reported to occur at low doses in two		

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			species, justifies this classification.	
2009/06/23	Jean-Luc Ledys	France /	Picogiga is using large quantity of that	
		SOITEC /	material since 1985 with a drastic	
		PICOGIGA	medical follow up of the concerned	
		INTERNATI	people: No demonstrated impact.	
		ONAL		
2009/07/27		Ireland /	The original document containing all	
		Health &	the comments is uploaded on Circa	
		Safety	(see reference list).	
		Authority		
			We can agree to classification of	
			gallium arsenide as Repr. Cat. 2 R60	
			(Repr. Cat. 1B H360F).	

**Respiratory sensitisation** 

Date	<b>Submitted by</b>	Organisation	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
		/MSCA			
2009/06/23	Jean-Luc Ledys	France /	Picogiga is using large quantity of that		
		SOITEC /	material since 1985 with a drastic		
		PICOGIGA	medical follow up of the concerned		
		INTERNATI	people: No demonstrated impact.		
		ONAL			

Other hazards and endpoints

Date	Submitted by	Organisation /MSCA	Comment	Response	Rapporteur's comment
2009/07/10	Agneta Ohlsson	Sweden /	The proposed classification as T;	Thanks for you support	
		Swedish	R48/23 and Repro. Cat. 2; R60 is		

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2000/07/21		Chemicals Agency	supported. The serious damage to the lungs and male sex organs and sperm quality and production that are reported to occur at low doses in two species, justifies this classification.		
2009/07/24	Frauke Schröder	Germany /Baua	The German CA agrees on the proposed classification as T, R48/23. However, in our view the justification of observed toxic effects reported in the "Summary and discussion of repeated dose toxicity" section 5.5.4 was not adequately and sufficiently described for classification as T, R48/23. The observed findings should shortly refer and describe the observed severe toxic effects, which clearly indicate functional disturbance or morphological changes at generally low exposure concentrations. Critical effects considered to be indicative of serious damage to health for gallium arsenide are nonneoplastic lung lesions in rats and mice, non-neoplastic lesions in the larynx of male rats and hyperplasia of the tracheobronchial lymph node in mice, haematotoxicity and toxic effects on the male reproductive organs in rats and mice.	Taken into account, background document modified accordingly.	OK

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2009/07/27	Ireland / Health & Safety Authority	The original document containing all the comments is uploaded on Circa (see reference list).  Therefore, without further details of the magnitude of the effects observed, we feel it is not possible to decide whether STOT-SE classification is warranted for gallium arsenide. Full comment:  Acute toxicity  We feel that there is insufficient detail concerning the magnitude of effects following oral or intra-tracheal administration of gallium arsenide in the dossier to allow us to make a final decision concerning classification of the substance for non-lethal acute effects e.g. classification with R39 (STOT-SE Cat. 1 or 2). It is stated in the Annex XV report that "a single administration of gallium arsenide by inhalation (i.t. installation) or oral route causes delayed specific haematological and immunological toxicity. Due to a lack of mortality, a specific acute toxicity classification does not apply. Moreover, a	Magnitude of the effects were reported when available. The effects reported were considered to belong to those described in 3.8.2.1.8 ie adaptative responses of minimal toxicological importance. This point has been clarified in the background document.	OK

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classification with R39 is not		
justified."		
We note that point 3.8.2.1.7.3 in		
Annex I to CLP Regulation states that		
a "consistent and significant adverse		
change in clinical biochemistry,		
haematology, or urinanalysis		
parameters", may be sufficient to		
justify classification with STOT-SE		
Cat 1 or 2. Therefore, without further		
detail of the magnitude of the effects		
observed, we feel it is not possible to		
decide whether STOT-SE		
classification is warranted for gallium		
arsenide.		
arsemue.		
Repeat dose toxicity inhalation		
We feel that it is not possible for us to		
*		
base a decision for classification for		
this endpoint on the information		
provided in the dossier. The reasons		
are as follows:		
Physical state in which the substance	_	
was administered.	follows: MMAD range: 0.8-	
Full comment:	1.6µm which means that	
There is no information on the	GaAs was administered in a	
physical state in which the substance	form of particulate aerosols	
was administered by the inhalation	with a mass median	
route, i.e. gas, vapour or	aerodynamic diameter of 0.8	

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dust/fume/mist. There are different guidance values assigned in Table 3.9.2 of the CLP regulation for classifying as a Cat 1 STOT-RE dependent on the physical state in which the substance was administered.		
Effective concentrations Full comment: The summary of the repeat dose toxicity describes the effects as warranting classification as T, R48/23, without reference to effective concentrations. The effective concentrations at which toxicologically significant lesions have occurred should be summarised to justify the classification (i.e. ≤0.025mg/l, 6hr/day).	These information have been added in the background document.	Converting concentrations of particulate aerosols to relevant units in corresponding guidance values assigned in Table 3.9.2 of the CLP regulation supports the proposed classification as STOT-RE 1.
Mg/l vs mg/ m <sup>3</sup> Full comment: Throughout section 5.5.2 the dose units are quoted as mg/m3, whereas the dose units for inhalation are normally quoted as mg/l for 6 hr exposures for classification purposes. Expression of the doses as mg/l would have facilitated the interpretation of	Data were reported as described in the study. This is only a matter of conversion as mg/l=1000mg/m <sup>3</sup> .	

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the results with respect to		
classification.		
Information on organ weight, doses		
at which effects were noted, statistical,		Summary table from NTP-
biological significance		study is inserted in the BD
Full comment:		
Information on the extent of the	These data are given as	
changes in organ weights in exposed	information and we cannot	
animals, the doses at which effects	give all the results of these	
were noted, the statistical and/or	huge studies.	
•	nuge studies.	
biological significance for the effects		
observed and the degree/severity of		
histopathological changes observed, in		
particular microcytic anaemia, is		
missing from the summaries.		
Physico-chemical properties	The remark concerning	OK
Full comment:	IUCLID references in table 1	
Reference is made in Table 1 to	has been taken into account	
IUCLID sections 3.1 et seq, however,	and the background	
these are now numbered 4.1 et seq in	document has been changed	
IUCLID 5. The information contained	accordingly. Concerning the	
in the table is not included in the	remark that information of	
IUCLID file for the substance.	table 1 are not reported in	
TO CELID THE TOT the substance.	IUCLID, sections 1 and 2	
	only are warranted in the	
	technical dossier for Annex	
	VI dossier of "hand-over"	
	substance from ECB such as	

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		Gallium arsenide.	

#### LIST OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED AS COMMENTS

#### FROM MSCA

#### IRELAND: CLH\_COM\_IRELAND\_GALLIUM ARSENIDE

http://echa.europa.eu/doc/about/organisation/rac/ie\_comments\_rcom\_gallium\_arsenide.pdf

#### **UNITED STATES / IPC:**

#### IPC COMMENTS DOCUMENT DATED 24 JULY 2009

http://echa.europa.eu/doc/about/organisation/rac/ipc\_comments\_rcom\_gallium\_arsenide.pdf

AIR POLLUTION DATA BY COUNTRY: URBAN POPULATION WEIGHTED AVERAGE PM10 CONCENTRATIONS (MICRO GRAMS PER CUBIC METER) IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF CITIES LARGER THAN 100,000

HETLAND ET AL. SILICA-INDUCED CYTOKINE RELEASE FROM A549 CELLS: IMPORTANCE OF SURFACE AREA VERSUS SIZE, HUMAN & EXPERIMENTAL TOXICOLOGY (2001) 20, 46-55

POPE ET AL. LUNG CANCER, CARDIOPULMONARY MORTALITY, AND LONG-TERM EXPOSURE TO FINE PARTICULATE AIR POLLUTION, *JAMA*. 2002;287(9):1132-1141 (ONLINE ARTICLE AND RELATED CONTENT CURRENT AS OF JUNE 17, 2009.)

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WHO WORKING GROUP REPORT ON HEALTH ASPECTS OF AIR POLLUTION WITH PARTICULATE MATTER, OZONE AND NITROGEN DIOXIDE, BONN, GERMANY, 13–15 JANUARY 2003, PP 94