

# List of Abbreviations and Technical Terms

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**This is a paper for discussion. This does not represent the views of the Committee and should not be cited.**

## List of Abbreviations and Technical Terms

### Acronym Definition

ADME      Absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion

ATSDR     Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

BBB        Blood brain barrier

BMDL	Benchmark-dose lower confidence limit
Bw	Bodyweight
CONTAM	Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain
CLEA	Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment
COT	Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DHA	Docosahexaenoic acid
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
HBGV	Health-based guidance value
Hg	Mercury
JECFA	Joint Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations / World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Food Additives
LCPUFA	Long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid
MeHg	Methylmercury

MOCEH	Mothers and Children's Environmental Health
NOAEL	No observed adverse effect level
OWO	Overweight or obesity
PTWI	Provisional tolerable weekly intake
SACN	Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition
SCDS	Seychelles child development study
SCOOP	Scientific cooperation
TDS	Total diet survey
TWI	Tolerable weekly intake

## Definitions

Benchmark-dose lower confidence limit (BMDL). The BMDL is the lower boundary of the confidence interval on the benchmark dose. The BMDL accounts for the uncertainty in the estimate of the dose response that is due to characteristics of the experimental design, such as sample size. The BMDL can be used as the point of departure for derivation of a health-based guidance value or a margin of exposure. Numbers in subscript after the BMDL such as BMDL05 or BMDL10 specify the lower confidence limit of the dose that causes a 5% or 10% change in the response rate.

No observed adverse effect level (NOAEL). The NOAEL is the greatest concentration or amount of a substance, found by experiment or observation, that causes no adverse alteration of morphology, functional capacity, growth, development or lifespan of the target organism distinguishable from those observed in normal (control) organisms of the same species and strain under the

same defined conditions of exposure.

Health-based guidance value (HBGV). A numerical value derived by dividing a point of departure (a no observed adverse-effect level, benchmark dose or benchmark dose lower confidence limit) by a composite uncertainty factor to determine a level that can be ingested over a defined time period (e.g. lifetime or 24 h) without appreciable health risk.

Tolerable weekly intake (TWI). Estimated maximum amount of an agent, expressed on a body mass basis, to which each individual in a (sub)population may be exposed over a specified period without appreciable risk.

Provisional tolerable weekly intake (PTWI). The endpoint used by the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives for food contaminants such as heavy metals with cumulative properties. Its value represents permissible human weekly exposure to those contaminants unavoidably associated with the consumption of otherwise wholesome and nutritious foods.