

TOX/2020/15

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COT)

Potential risks from exposure to microplastics: First draft statement

1. During October 2019, the COT reviewed the potential toxicological risks from exposure to microplastics¹. A first draft statement bringing together the discussions and conclusions of the Committee during this period has been prepared and is presented in Annex A.
2. Aspects covered in the statement include:
 - The background and scope of the COT review;
 - Summaries of assessments by authoritative bodies regarding the risks from exposure to microplastics;
 - An overview of microplastics, their environmental fate and subsequent exposure pathways to humans;
 - Summaries of toxicological and epidemiological data on microplastics in both human and environmental health;
 - An overview of available exposure data;
 - A preliminary risk assessment on microplastic exposure based on exposure from tyre wear and;
 - The identification of data gaps and further research needs as recommended by the COT.
3. Members are invited to comment on the first draft statement:
 - i. Are there any aspects that have been addressed during the COT review of microplastic exposure that are not covered in the draft statement which should be included?
 - ii. Do the conclusions accurately represent the views of the COT?
 - iii. Does the Committee have any other suggestions regarding data gaps and future research ideas?
 - iv. Do the members have any other comments?

**March 2020
Secretariat**

¹ Scoping paper available at: <https://cot.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/tox201962microplastics.pdf>

Annex A of TOX/2020/15

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First draft statement

The attached document is a draft. It should be cited and does not necessarily represent the views of the Committee. The final version of the statement will be published in due course on the COT website: <https://cot.food.gov.uk/>

**March 2020
Secretariat**