

TYPES OF EXPOSURE LIMITS

All practicing hygienists are well versed in statutory occupational exposure limits. However, there are other types of exposure limits that hygienists should be aware of that are applicable in non-standard situations.

LC50 – Lethal Concentration 50%, concentration fatal to ½ of exposed group

*EC50 – Effective Concentration 50%, for severe or mild/threshold effects.

IDLH – Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health, occupational use, 30-minute standard used as criteria for donning full protective gear.

AEGL – Acute Exposure Guidelines Level – for civilian emergencies.

ERPG – Emergency Response Planning Guideline - air concentration guidelines for single exposures to agents.

TEEL – Temporary Emergency Exposure Level, chemical exposure guidelines to use for emergency planning (if no AEGL or ERPG is available).

*WPL – Worker Population Limit, military, used for chemical warfare agents, represents standards similar to TLV.

RfC – Reference Concentration, estimated concentration that could be breathed continuously every day for a lifetime without adverse effects.

*GPL – General Population Limit, term used for chronic protection levels developed for Army for chemical warfare agents.

Source: "The Occupational Environment" 3rd ed. by AIHA, p.186.

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DIFFERENT TYPES OF EXPOSURE LIMITS

