

Summary of information received in response to the data gathering initiative on certain selenium-containing substances (2013)

Purpose

To increase transparency and to facilitate access to information on substances in commerce in Canada, the Government of Canada is providing a summary of the information received in response to the data gathering on certain selenium-containing substances. The data gathering was conducted under the [Substance Groupings Initiative](#) of the second phase of the [Chemicals Management Plan \(CMP\)](#), to support risk assessment and risk management activities for these substances.

This document offers an overview of the information gathered under this initiative and includes general information on what was received including the type of submission, the main substances reported, activities, substance functions and commercial uses reported, the main industrial sectors involved and scientific studies reported for each substance. To complement this summary, a compilation of the non-confidential information received is available in Excel format, and provides a more complete dataset. Both documents refer to responses to the [Notice with respect to certain selenium-containing substances](#), which was published in the *Canada Gazette* in May 2013, as well as information provided on a voluntary basis.

Important information about this summary:

- The information provided under the Notice was collected for the 2012 calendar year.
- Some information gathered under this initiative was considered Confidential Business Information (CBI)¹ by the submitters. While this summary and the Excel compilation were prepared using the full dataset (including CBI), CBI was masked in both documents prior to publication. Masking refers to the process whereby the information is used in such a manner so that CBI is not revealed. This can be done by, for example, aggregating data or by providing quantity ranges. For instances when masking could not adequately provide protection, CBI data elements were removed from the final version.
- Sensitive information,² such as names of submitters, names of their customers and suppliers, or any information that could identify a submitter, was also not included.
- The s.71 Notice targeted specific information to address specific data needs identified for the substances. As such, the information gathered and reported here does not represent the entire range of commercial activities in Canada with the substances. The specific reporting requirements, exclusions and definitions applicable to the Notice can be found in Schedule 2 and Schedule 3 to the Notice.

¹ “Confidential Business Information” or “CBI” is the information for which a request for confidentiality has been made under section 313 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA).

² Sensitive information is information for which a request for confidentiality has not necessarily been made under section 313 of CEPA, but that is provided to the Government in confidence.

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- Certain submitters chose to provide information that was not legally required under the Notice. This voluntary information is included here.

It should be noted that this document does not include an assessment of the potential risks these substances may represent for the environment or the health of Canadians. Screening assessment reports for selenium-containing substances can be found on the [Selenium-containing Substance Grouping](#) webpage.

Background

Canada's Chemicals Management Plan (CMP) is jointly administered by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Health Canada under the CEPA and aims at reducing the risks posed by substances to Canadians and their environment. Under the CMP, the government gathers available information to support risk assessment and risk management decisions. When information needs continue to exist, a variety of approaches can be used, such as information-gathering requirements issued under the CEPA, voluntary information-gathering initiatives, research, monitoring and surveillance as well as international cooperation.

On October 8, 2011 an announcement was published in the *Canada Gazette*, setting how the Government of Canada planned to address approximately 500 substances in nine groups that had been selected as the next round of priorities under the second phase of the CMP.

In May 2013, as part of the Substance Groupings Initiative, a Notice was issued in the *Canada Gazette*, (Part I: Vol. 147, No. 22 – May 25, 2013) under section 71 of the CEPA and applied to 23 substances which are part of the Selenium-containing Substance Grouping. This Notice collected information from the 2012 calendar year and is the basis for this summary.

Organizations that did not meet the reporting requirements of the Notice but possessed information required in the Notice, or any other information to assist with the assessment of the selenium-containing substances, were encouraged to provide it on a voluntary basis. Moreover, those who had a commercial interest in the substances (whether past, future or potential), or simply wanted to be kept informed on the outcome of the assessment, were encouraged to identify themselves as stakeholders by completing a Declaration of Stakeholder Interest.

Additional information on the Substance Groupings Initiative can be found on the [Chemical Substances Website](#). For more information on the Selenium-containing Substance Grouping, including the associated section 71 Notice and risk assessments, please consult the corresponding substance grouping [webpage](#).

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Summary of Information Collected

The following tables summarize both mandatory and voluntary responses received on the 23 substances listed in the section 71 Notice.

Table 1: Submissions received for selenium-containing substances.

Type of Submission	Number of Submissions Received
Section 71 Notice	5
Declaration of Stakeholder Interest	30
Other voluntary submissions of information	11

Table 2: Selenium-containing substances reported.

Data Received	Number of Substances (23)
Reported	
Via responses to the Notice	4
Via voluntary responses such as the Declaration of Stakeholder Interest*	14

*Number of explicitly declared substances. However, a total of 13 organizations indicated an interest in all 23 substances by means of a “blanket” Declaration of Stakeholder Interest

Table 3: Total quantity of selenium-containing substances imported or used in 2012.

To protect CBI, some total quantities are provided in the form of ranges. Refer to the Compilation of non-confidential data received (Excel) for individual quantities reported under the Notice.

CAS RN	Substance Name	Total quantity (kg)
7488-56-4	Selenium sulfide (SeS ₂)	16,925
10102-18-8	Selenious acid, disodium salt	1,000-10,000
7782-49-2	Selenium	1,000-10,000

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58339-34-7	Cadmium sulfoselenide red (Pigment Red 108)	100-1,000
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Table 4: Substance Function Codes reported for selenium-containing substances, and non-confidential substances reported for each code.

Refer to the Compilation of non-confidential data received (Excel) for the quantity of substance reported for each applicable code.

Substance Function Code	Title of Code	CAS RN
U999	Anti-dandruff active ingredient	7488-56-4
U009	Fillers	7782-49-2

Table 5: Consumer and Commercial Codes reported for selenium-containing substances, and non-confidential substances reported for each code.

Refer to the Compilation of non-confidential data received (Excel) for the quantity of substance reported for each applicable code.

Consumer and Commercial Code	Title of Code	CAS RN
C108	Personal Care	7488-56-4
C999	Other: Used to refine grain in bullet Lead Ingots. Used as a hardener	7782-49-2

Table 6: Unpublished studies or data on acute mammalian toxicity received (any calendar year) for selenium-containing substances.

CAS RN	Ecological and Human Health Endpoints
7782-49-2	Acute mammalian toxicity

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Contacts

For additional questions about information gathered on the Selenium-containing Substance Grouping, please [contact us](#) via the Substances Management Information Line.