

Category Explanations

Carcinogens – A carcinogen is a substance for which there is sufficient evidence of a cause and effect relationship between exposure to the material and cancer in humans, e.g. styrene.

Respiratory Organics – These are organic particles which are known to be the cause of respiratory distress in humans, e.g. diesel particulates.

Respiratory Inorganics – These are inorganic particles which are known to be the cause of respiratory distress in humans, e.g. photochemical smog.

Climate Change – This includes emissions which are known to cause or increase the regularity of climatic inconsistencies, e.g. Carbon Dioxide.

Radiation – These are substances which may cause harm to the environment by means of a radioactive emission or charge, e.g. Ultra Violet Light.

Ozone Layer – This describes those emissions which contribute to either the thickening or thinning of the ozone layer, e.g. methane.

Ecotoxicity – Substances which have toxic effects on plants and animals, populations, or communities. This is the potency of these effects. This category is mainly concerned with the terrestrial environment.

Acidification – Acidification refers to those substances which lead to the lowering of soil and water pH due to acid precipitation and deposition; this process disrupts ecosystem nutrient flows and may kill freshwater fish and plants dependent on more neutral alkaline conditions, e.g. Sulphur dioxide. The category is mainly concerned with the marine environment.

Eutrophication - is over-enrichment of a water body with nutrients, resulting in excessive growth of organisms and depletion of oxygen concentration, e.g. Nitrogen fertilisers.

Land Use – Is the impact on the environment from the extra cultivation of land needed to provide a raw material.

Minerals – Minerals are natural compounds formed through geological processes, this refers to the effects on the environment incurred through their extraction, e.g. depletion of a naturally occurring non-replenishable resource.

Fossil Fuels - A collective term for coal, petroleum and natural gas, which are used for energy production, this category takes into account the impacts from their extraction.

Appendix 3 – See CD-ROM.