

Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Values for  
  
Iron Sulfide  
(CASRN 11126-12-8)

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## COMMONLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

BMC	benchmark concentration
BMCL	benchmark concentration lower bound 95% confidence interval
BMD	benchmark dose
BMDL	benchmark dose lower bound 95% confidence interval
HEC	human equivalent concentration
HED	human equivalent dose
IUR	inhalation unit risk
LOAEL	lowest-observed-adverse-effect level
LOAEL <sub>ADJ</sub>	LOAEL adjusted to continuous exposure duration
LOAEL <sub>HEC</sub>	LOAEL adjusted for dosimetric differences across species to a human
NOAEL	no-observed-adverse-effect level
NOAEL <sub>ADJ</sub>	NOAEL adjusted to continuous exposure duration
NOAEL <sub>HEC</sub>	NOAEL adjusted for dosimetric differences across species to a human
NOEL	no-observed-effect level
OSF	oral slope factor
p-IUR	provisional inhalation unit risk
POD	point of departure
p-OSF	provisional oral slope factor
p-RfC	provisional reference concentration (inhalation)
p-RfD	provisional reference dose (oral)
RfC	reference concentration (inhalation)
RfD	reference dose (oral)
UF	uncertainty factor
UF <sub>A</sub>	animal-to-human uncertainty factor
UF <sub>C</sub>	composite uncertainty factor
UF <sub>D</sub>	incomplete-to-complete database uncertainty factor
UF <sub>H</sub>	interhuman uncertainty factor
UF <sub>L</sub>	LOAEL-to-NOAEL uncertainty factor
UF <sub>S</sub>	subchronic-to-chronic uncertainty factor
WOE	weight of evidence

## PROVISIONAL PEER-REVIEWED TOXICITY VALUES FOR IRON SULFIDE (CASRN 11126-12-8)

### BACKGROUND

A Provisional Peer-Reviewed Toxicity Value (PPRTV) is defined as a toxicity value derived for use in the Superfund Program. PPRTVs are derived after a review of the relevant scientific literature using established Agency guidance on human health toxicity value derivations. All PPRTV assessments receive internal review by a standing panel of National Center for Environment Assessment (NCEA) scientists and an independent external peer review by three scientific experts.

The purpose of this document is to provide support for the hazard and dose-response assessment pertaining to chronic and subchronic exposures to substances of concern, to present the major conclusions reached in the hazard identification and derivation of the PPRTVs, and to characterize the overall confidence in these conclusions and toxicity values. It is not intended to be a comprehensive treatise on the chemical or toxicological nature of this substance.

The PPRTV review process provides needed toxicity values in a quick turnaround timeframe while maintaining scientific quality. PPRTV assessments are updated approximately on a 5-year cycle for new data or methodologies that might impact the toxicity values or characterization of potential for adverse human health effects and are revised as appropriate. It is important to utilize the PPRTV database (<http://hhpprtv.ornl.gov>) to obtain the current information available. When a final Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessment is made publicly available on the Internet ([www.epa.gov/iris](http://www.epa.gov/iris)), the respective PPRTVs are removed from the database.

### DISCLAIMERS

The PPRTV document provides toxicity values and information about the adverse effects of the chemical and the evidence on which the value is based, including the strengths and limitations of the data. All users are advised to review the information provided in this document to ensure that the PPRTV used is appropriate for the types of exposures and circumstances at the site in question and the risk management decision that would be supported by the risk assessment.

Other U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) programs or external parties who may choose to use PPRTVs are advised that Superfund resources will not generally be used to respond to challenges, if any, of PPRTVs used in a context outside of the Superfund program.

### QUESTIONS REGARDING PPRTVS

Questions regarding the contents and appropriate use of this PPRTV assessment should be directed to the EPA Office of Research and Development's National Center for Environmental Assessment, Superfund Health Risk Technical Support Center (513-569-7300).

## INTRODUCTION

Iron sulfide, CAS No. 11126-12-8, is a compound with the molecular formula  $\text{Fe}_2\text{S}_3$ . No further information could be located specifically on iron sulfide. A table of physicochemical properties for iron sulfide is provided below (see Table 1).

<b>Table 1. Physicochemical Properties of Iron Sulfide (CASRN 11126-12-8)<sup>a</sup></b>	
<b>Property (unit)</b>	<b>Value</b>
Boiling point (°C)	ND
Melting point (°C)	ND
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	ND
Vapor pressure (Pa at 25°C)	ND
pH (unitless)	ND
Solubility in water (g/100 mL at 25°C)	ND
Relative vapor density (air = 1)	ND
Molecular weight (g/mol)	207.888

<sup>a</sup>NLM (2011).

ND = no data.

No reference dose (RfD), reference concentration (RfC), or cancer assessment for iron sulfide is included in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) (U.S. EPA, 2011a) or on the Drinking Water Standards and Health Advisories List (U.S. EPA, 2011b). No RfD or RfC values are reported in the Health Effects Assessment Summary Tables (HEAST) (U.S. EPA, 2011c). The Chemical Assessments and Related Activities (CARA) list does not include a Health and Environmental Effects Profile (HEEP) for iron sulfide (U.S. EPA, 1994). The toxicity of iron sulfide has not been reviewed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR, 2011) or the World Health Organization (WHO, 2011). The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA, 2008, 2011) has not derived toxicity values for exposure to iron sulfide. No occupational exposure limits for iron sulfide have been derived or recommended by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH, 2011), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, 2007), or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA, 2006). Since elemental iron is an essential metal, the Institute of Medicine (NAS, 2001) has provided an upper level of iron intake value of 40–45 mg/day for healthy adults. This recommended upper intake value is equivalent to 200–225 mg of soluble ferrous sulfate/day.

The HEAST (U.S. EPA, 2011c) does not report a U.S. EPA (1986) cancer weight-of-evidence (WOE) classification or an oral slope factor for iron sulfide. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC, 2011) has not reviewed the carcinogenic

potential of iron sulfide. Iron sulfide is not included in the 12<sup>th</sup> *Report on Carcinogens* (NTP, 2011). CalEPA (2009) has not prepared a quantitative estimate of the carcinogenic potential of iron sulfide.

Literature searches were conducted on sources published from 1900 through October 19, 2011 for studies relevant to the derivation of provisional toxicity values for iron sulfide, CAS No. 11126-12-8. Searches were conducted using U.S. EPA's Health and Environmental Research Online (HERO) database of scientific literature. HERO searches the following databases: AGRICOLA; American Chemical Society; BioOne; Cochrane Library; DOE: Energy Information Administration, Information Bridge, and Energy Citations Database; EBSCO: Academic Search Complete; GeoRef Preview; GPO: Government Printing Office; Informaworld; IngentaConnect; J-STAGE: Japan Science & Technology; JSTOR: Mathematics & Statistics and Life Sciences; NSCEP/NEPIS (EPA publications available through the National Service Center for Environmental Publications [NSCEP] and National Environmental Publications Internet Site [NEPIS] database); PubMed: MEDLINE and CANCERLIT databases; SAGE; Science Direct; Scirus; Scitopia; SpringerLink; TOXNET (Toxicology Data Network): ANEUP, CCRIS, ChemIDplus, CIS, CRISP, DART, EMIC, EPIDEM, ETICBACK, FEDRIP, GENE-TOX, HAPAB, HEEP, HMT, HSDB, IRIS, ITER, LactMed, Multi-Database Search, NIOSH, NTIS, PESTAB, PPBIB, RISKLINE, TRI; and TSCATS; Virtual Health Library; Web of Science (searches Current Content database among others); World Health Organization; and Worldwide Science. The following databases outside of HERO were searched for risk assessment values: ACGIH, ATSDR, CalEPA, U.S. EPA IRIS, U.S. EPA HEAST, U.S. EPA HEEP, U.S. EPA OW, U.S. EPA TSCATS/TSCATS2, NIOSH, NTP, OSHA, and RTECS.

### **REVIEW OF POTENTIALLY RELEVANT DATA (CANCER AND NONCANCER)**

No information is available regarding repeat-dose oral or inhalation exposure of humans or animals to iron sulfide.

### **DERIVATION OF PROVISIONAL VALUES**

Limitations in the available data preclude development of both cancer and noncancer toxicity values for iron sulfide.

### **CANCER WOE DESCRIPTOR**

Limitations in the available data preclude development of a WOE descriptor.

### **MODE-OF-ACTION (MOA) DISCUSSION**

Limitations in the available data preclude determination of a MOA discussion.

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