Toluene Fact Sheet

for field use with mobile monitoring instruments

This Field Guide provides a summary of the different mobile monitoring comparison values developed by the Toxicology, Risk Assessment, and Research Division for use in evaluating real-time mobile monitoring data in the field.

***All derived mobile monitoring comparison values are intended to be used as guidance**. Field investigators and mobile monitoring staff should use their own discretion when deciding to mitigate exposure, such as when experiencing health effects or intense odors, regardless of measured concentrations.*

What is Toluene?

- Toluene is a colorless liquid with a sweet, pungent, benzene-like odor
- Toluene is used to produce benzene; it can be found in many common household products and gasoline
- Toluene is released into the air through manufacturing processes and use of household products

At What Levels Can Toluene Cause Harm?

Breathing high levels of toluene for a short period of time can result in eye and nose irritation, headache, dizziness, and feelings of intoxication. On a long-term basis, breathing high concentrations of toluene can result in color vision loss, fatigue, memory problems, and hearing issues.

Mobile Monitoring Comparison Values

	Toluene
iBDIL (ppb) Orange	70
iHPIL (ppb) Red	4,000
iHBAL (ppb) Purple	12,000
$^{EM}HBAL_{10min}$ (ppb)	2,500
$^{EM}HBAL_{1hr}$ (ppb)	8,000
$^{EM}HBAL_{1sec}$ (ppb)	24,000

iBDIL - instantaneous baseline-derived investigation level

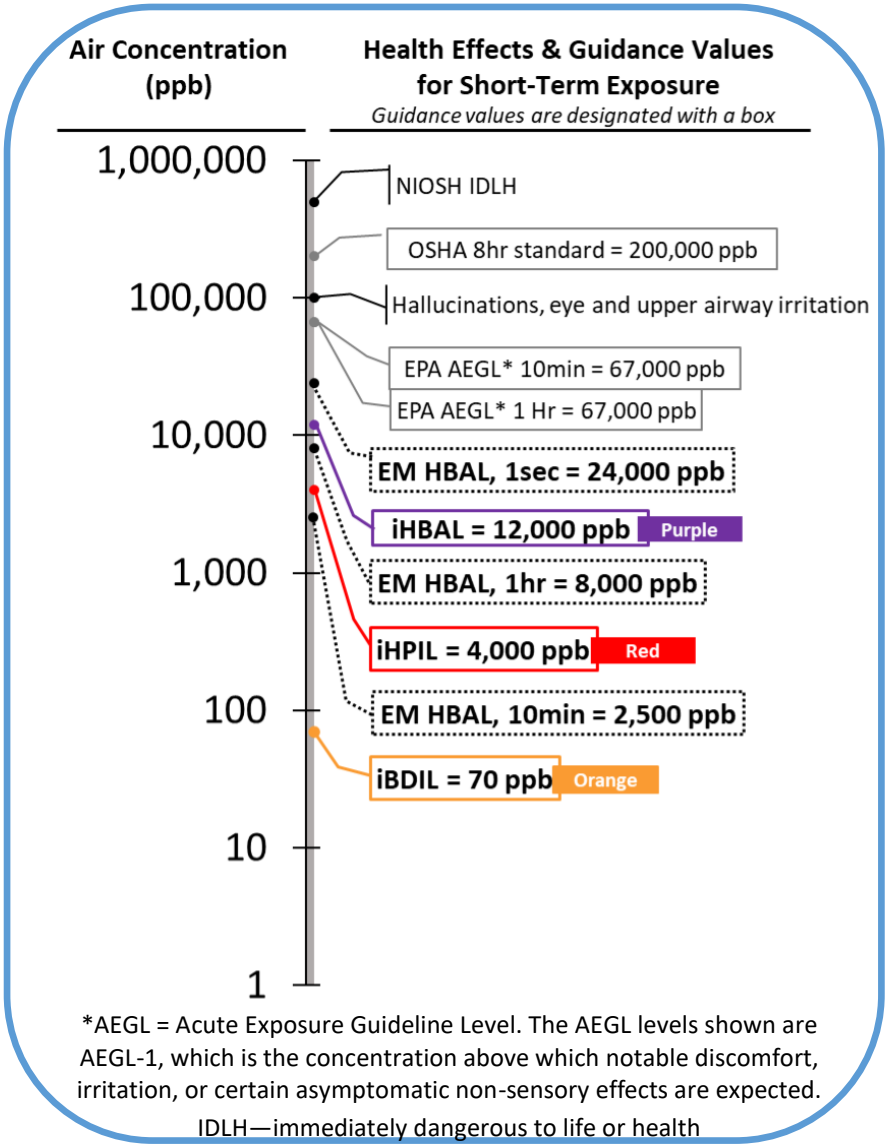
iHPIL - instantaneous health-protective investigation level

iHBAL - instantaneous health-based action level

$^{EM}HBAL_{10min}$ - 10-minute health-based action level for exposure mitigation

$^{EM}HBAL_{1hr}$ - 1-hour health-based action level for exposure mitigation

$^{EM}HBAL_{1sec}$ - 1-second health-based action level for exposure mitigation



*AEGL = Acute Exposure Guideline Level. The AEGL levels shown are AEGL-1, which is the concentration above which notable discomfort, irritation, or certain asymptomatic non-sensory effects are expected.

IDLH—immediately dangerous to life or health

For more information on EPA's AEGL values, please see EPA's website.

All MMCVs are **safe levels**; AEGLs are health effects levels

Updated: June 10, 2024