

GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals Benchmark Review Process

GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals provides a clear, transparent and scientifically rigorous framework for chemical hazard assessment. In a world of incomplete data, expert judgment is needed. In some instances toxicological assessments can differ. To address this situation, Clean Production Action has a detailed Benchmark Review Process to resolve differing toxicological assessment results. CPA's role is to mediate the process of the scientific experts, not intervene in the interpretation of the science.

Prevention:

Clean Production Action convenes regular meetings with all Licensed GreenScreen Profiler organizations to inform all organizations of GreenScreen program developments and pending methodology revisions, and to promote consistency in interpreting and applying the GreenScreen method among licensed profilers through scientific discourse.

Response:

Clean Production Action initiates the following process in response to a chemical that has been evaluated by more than one GreenScreen Licensed Profiler and where the Benchmark scores from the assessments are different.

1. CPA identifies the hazard endpoint(s) driving the difference in score.
2. CPA convenes a meeting Licensed Profiler organizations involved to come to an agreement if possible.
3. If an agreement is not reached through discussions with Licensed Profilers, CPA convenes an external technical review panel. The external technical review panel consists of three outside experts selected based on their scientific reputation in the topic(s) at the source of the conflict and an assessment of their ability to objectively discuss and evaluate the science.
4. If an external technical review panel is convened, CPA facilitates a discussion with the panel and the Licensed Profiler organizations involved. The panel members are provided the GreenScreen Guidance and Resources and the relevant portion(s) of each assessment. Each Profiler is given an opportunity to present their conclusions and rationale and panel members are given the opportunity to discuss and ask questions.
5. Each member of the external technical review panel considers all information provided in writing and through the facilitated discussion(s), and submits his or her recommendation on hazard score(s) for key endpoint(s) in writing to CPA.
6. CPA mediates the process to determine a final, authoritative Benchmark score and harmonized hazard classification for hazard endpoint(s) driving the Benchmark score. The harmonized score(s) may be informed by discussions with Licensed Profilers involved only, or in combination with external technical review panel if convened.
7. CPA communicates in writing to each Licensed Profiler involved the harmonized hazard classification for each hazard endpoint driving the difference in Benchmark score and harmonized Benchmark score along with instructions on how to update their assessment.