

Preface

The Ministry of the Environment (MOE) released a document entitled “Strategic Programs on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters (SPEED’98)” in May, 1998 and listed 67 substances as “chemicals suspected of having an endocrine disrupting effect”. The priority list was revised in November, 2000, due to deletion of several substances, styrene dimer, styrene trimer and n-butylbenzene of which estimated risks were low. Thus 65 substances are listed at present.

Following this initial review program, a research project was launched in 1998. The purpose of the project was to develop screening tests and evaluate the potential endocrine disruptive effects of the 65 substances listed as those of concern. Since 1998, MOE has progressed with several activities focusing on research with **medaka** (*Orizias latipes*).

Under the current endocrine disruptor (ED) research project, the Fish Working Group for Development of Screening Test and Testing was established in 1999. The aim of the Fish Working Group is to develop test methods with **medaka** and submit draft protocols to OECD by following the approaches and concepts of the OECD framework for EDs.

Three laboratories in Japan, including the Chemicals Evaluation and Research Institute (CERI), National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES) and Institute of Environmental Ecology, METOCEAN ENVIRONMENT INC have been conducting medaka testing with EDs under a grant from the MOE Japan. Many tests, such as vitellogenin assay, partial life-cycle test and full life-cycle test have been conducted. This **MEDAKA** report describes the development of test methods using **medaka** to detect EDs. These tests have been conducted following the current MOE’s approach, however further work is needed to decide on a final format for the testing and assessment scheme for EDs effects in fish.

In December 2002, several data sets describing results from a vitellogenin assay, fish partial life-cycle test and full life-cycle test with chemicals such as phenolic compounds were submitted to the OECD secretariat.

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