

Background – IARC Monographs

IARC regularly runs assessments by panels of independent experts of the carcinogenic hazards posed to humans by a variety of agents, mixtures and exposures, in order to provide advice to health authorities around the world. Since 1971, IARC has evaluated 941 agents, including:

| GROUP 1 - Carcinogenic to Humans | GROUP 2A - Probably Carcinogenic to Humans | GROUP 2B - Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans | GROUP 3 - Not Classifiable | GROUP 4 - Probably not Carcinogenic to Humans |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Evidence that an agent is “proven” to be associated with human cancer | Limited evidence of as association with cancer in humans, but sufficient evidence of cancer in experimental animals | Limited evidence of as association with cancer in humans, but insufficient evidence of cancer in experimental animals | Evidence indicates that it is not possible to classify an agent based on the available information | Evidence to prove agent is “not associated” with human cancer |
| 107 Agents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcoholic Beverages • Asbestos (all forms) • Arsenic • Benzene • Formaldehyde • Ionizing Radiation (all types) Tobacco smoking, smoke and smokeless • Painter (occupational exposure) • Sunlight (solar radiation) | 59 Agents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdresser or barber (occupational exposure) • Petroleum refining (occupational exposure) • Shift work that involves circadian disruption (disruption to normal sleep patterns) | 266 Agents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee(urinary bladder) • Diesel fuel, marine • Dry cleaning (occupational exposure) • Firefighter(occupational exposure) • Styrene • Textile manufacturing industry(work in) • Magnetic fields(ELF) • Pickled vegetables | 508 Agents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acrylic acid • Chlorinated drinking water • Hair coloring products(personal use of) • Fluorescent lighting • Electric fields(ELF) | 1 Agent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caprolactam <p style="text-align: center;">Note: Caprolactam is toxic although not carcinogenic</p> |