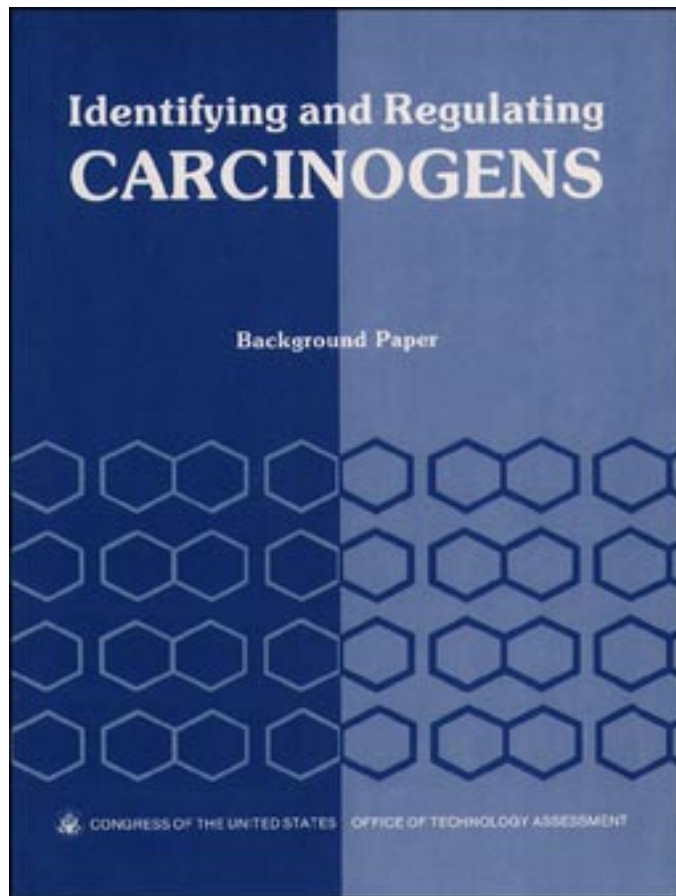


*Identifying and Regulating Carcinogens*

November 1987

NTIS order #PB88-136999



Recommended Citation:

U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment, *Identifying and Regulating Carcinogens*,  
**OTA-BP-FI-42** (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, November 1987).

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number *87-619859*

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## Foreword

Congressional interest in reducing and preventing exposures to carcinogenic chemicals has been expressed in statutes authorizing the regulation of food additives, drugs, consumer products, occupational exposures, air and water pollutants, drinking water contaminants, pesticides, toxic chemicals, and hazardous wastes. OTA's previous work on these topics includes our 1981 report, *Technologies for Determining Cancer Risks From the Environment*, as well as other OTA reports describing technologies for controlling environmental and occupational hazards.

This background paper was requested by the House Government Operations Committee and its Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations and Human Resources. In it, OTA describes policies issued by Federal agencies concerning the identification, assessment, and regulation of carcinogenic chemicals; the chemicals that have been regulated because of carcinogenic risk; the Federal Government's carcinogenicity testing program; and the results of OTA's analysis of the extent of agency action on chemicals determined to be carcinogenic.

This background paper covers 16 different Federal agencies, programs, and activities: the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Food and Drug Administration, including its activities on food and color additives, human drugs, and animal drugs. For the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this background paper discusses the Carcinogen Assessment Group, as well as EPA standard-setting on carcinogens under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act. Finally, the activity of the National Toxicology Program is described.

A large number of Federal agency personnel and others assisted in providing information for this background paper. We thank them for their assistance. Key OTA staff involved with this background paper were Karl Kronebusch, Sylvia Tognetti, and Neil Holtzman. Carl Cranor worked on this background paper while serving as a Congressional Fellow of the American Philosophical Association.



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