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Standard Guide for Conducting Early Life-Stage Toxicity Tests with Fishes[1]

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide describes procedures for obtaining laboratory data concerning the adverse effects of a test material added to dilution water—but not to food—on certain species of freshwater and saltwater fishes during 28 to 120-day (depending on species) continuous exposure, beginning before hatch and ending after hatch, using the flow-through technique. This guide will probably be useful for conducting early life-stage toxicity tests with some other species of fish, although modifications might be necessary.

1.2 Other modifications of these procedures might be justified by special needs or circumstances. Although using appropriate procedures is more important than following prescribed procedures, results of tests conducted using unusual procedures are not likely to be comparable to results of many other tests. Comparison of results obtained using modified and unmodified versions of these procedures might provide useful information concerning new concepts and procedures for conducting early life-stage toxicity tests with fishes.

1.3 These procedures are applicable to all chemicals, either individually or in formulations, commercial products, or known mixtures, that can be measured accurately at the necessary concentrations in water. With appropriate modifications these procedures can be used to conduct tests on temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH and on such materials as aqueous effluents (see Guide E 1192), leachates, oils, particulate matter, sediments, and surface waters.

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