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The 118 carcinogens identified by the WHO

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RICK WILKING/REUTERS

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF OCTOBER 26, 2015

The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer on Monday labeled processed meats as carcinogens and said that red meat likely can cause cancer, too.

In doing so, the agency added processed meat to a list of 117 other materials that it says can cause cancer in humans. That list, called Group 1, also includes tobacco, asbestos, formaldehyde, solar and ultraviolet radiation, air pollution, and alcoholic beverages.

However, being in the same group does not mean the materials are equally dangerous. The agency says it lists materials in a certain group based on the strength of the scientific evidence about its ties to cancer, rather than assessing the level of risk.

Meanwhile, the agency added red meat to a list of 74 other materials that the agency is less certain can cause cancer, but “probably” do. That list is called Group 2A, and also includes androgenic, or anabolic, steroids and indoor emissions from the household combustion of biomass fuel, primarily wood.

The agency has three lesser classifications:



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- There are 288 materials in Group 2B that are considered “possibly” carcinogenic;
- There are 503 materials in Group 3 that are “not classifiable;”
- And there is one material listed in Group 4, which is considered “probably not carcinogenic.”

Below is a list of each of the materials the WHO lists and which of the five classifications the agency has placed them in:

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A list of materials and whether they are carcinogenic

As determined by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer. (Note: Under the 'Year' column, the value '1' means the research is being prepared, and a value of '0' means no year was listed.)

Search:

Agent/material	▲ Group ▼	Year of classification ▼	More information ▼
1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane	2B	2014	None
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Three	1999	None
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	2B	2014	None
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Three	1999	None
1,1-Dimethylhydrazine	2B	1999	None
1,2,3-Trichloropropane	2A	1995	None
1,2,3-Tris(chloromethoxy)propane	Three	1999	None
1,2-Bis(chloromethoxy)ethane	Three	1999	None
1,2-Diamino-4-nitrobenzene	Three	1987	None
1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane	2B	1999	None

1,2-Dichloroethane	2B	1999	None
1,2-Dichloropropane	One	1	None
1,2-Diethylhydrazine	2B	1999	None
1,2-Dimethylhydrazine	2A	1999	NB: Overall evaluation upgraded to Group 2A with supporting evidence from other relevant data
1,2-Epoxybutane	2B	1999	NB: Overall evaluation upgraded to Group 2B with supporting evidence from other relevant data
1,2:3,4-Diepoxybutane (see Monographs on 1,3-Butadiene)	NA	1987	None
1,3-Butadiene	One	2012	None

Showing 1 to 1,042 of 1,042 entries

DATA: World Health Organization, International Agency for Research on Cancer

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