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**By email**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Dear Invitee

### **Category 4 Screening Levels**

Since the publication of the [Category 4 Screening Levels \(C4SL\)](#) by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly in March 2014 (erratum December 2014) for the assessment of land affected by contamination, the scope for their potential use has been clarified by DEFRA, DCLG and the Welsh Assembly.

Several sector-wide forums have recognised there are still only six compounds with a C4SL and there is merit in producing more. DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly have made it clear that whilst supportive of further work they expect the sector to lead on this next stage.

Therefore, SAGTA is committed to financially supporting and co-ordinating this next stage and through discussions with others in the sector there is evidently the energy and wide commitment to support this. In this context, we have in-principle support from several influential groups to move this forward in-line with the points described below and we'd anticipate their formal involvement in due course.

Our vision is to:

- Derive further C4SLs that are to be freely disseminated to industry. It is proposed that we target approximately 50 further compounds to have a C4SL derived via the attached proposed Delivery Process.
- Provide preliminary financial support to fund certain elements, mainly for toxicological and management input including the appointment of a Project Manager.  
We are confident the scale of SAGTA's dedicated financial contribution, as well as funds already committed by others, will be sufficient to get substantial momentum into the initiative and deliver the next batch of C4SLs.
- Coordinate the 'in-kind' contributions from other parties to support the initiative.
- Form a Steering Group of representatives from trade associations and regulatory groups within the sector to oversee delivery of the initiative so as to ensure a level of inclusivity and balance. It is intended this Steering Group would be chaired by Dr Richard Boyle in his capacity as a SAGTA member. Richard works for the Homes and Community Agency.

On this last point, SAGTA is pleased to extend a place on the Steering Group to your organisation recognising you may have an interest in supporting the completion of this initiative. We have drawn our invitees from the Land Forum, together with Public Health England and Public Health Wales, so our apologies if you are one of the organisations for whom this issue is not a priority. The Steering Group member would be a person of your choosing, but the role would require the provision of 'in kind' support and amongst other aspects will be involvement in several meetings over the next year or so as well as review of documents when circulated.



SAGTA would emphasise that a prerequisite of accepting a place on the Steering Group is confirmed acceptance of the DEFRA, Welsh Assembly and DCLG policies of both the purpose the C4SLs can serve within the planning process and their alignment to the concept of 'suitable for use'. Our goal is to develop this next phase in line with this policy direction. It will not be part of our intended Terms of Reference (draft attached) to consider the low risk or minimal risk discussion point, but rather accept the existing policy direction and progress the initiative on this basis.

SAGTA has already commissioned some preliminary work to assist. This includes 'specifications' to distil the essential toxicology and exposure elements from the Framework for practitioners to follow to ensure standards and consistency of C4SL production. In addition, the role of a manager has been outlined to drive this initiative forward and to be the 'middle-man' between the Steering Group and the C4SL production.

It is proposed that an inaugural meeting of all willing Steering Group participants is organised to finalise the scope and workings for this initiative at 11:00 on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015 at DEFRA Nobel House, London. Further information will be disseminated to inform this meeting nearer the time.

SAGTA trusts that you will consider that this is a worthy initiative to be involved with for the benefit of industry as a whole and that you will nominate someone to be your representative.

Preferably, please respond direct to Richard Boyle with your nominee or with any questions on this initiative ([Richard.Boyle@hca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.Boyle@hca.gsi.gov.uk), 07767 424 447). Responses to Doug Laidler will be forwarded to Richard for consideration.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of SAGTA

**Dr Richard Boyle**  
SAGTA Steering Group

**Frank Evans**  
SAGTA Chairman

Encl. Proposals for C4SL Phase 2 Delivery Process  
Draft Terms of Reference