**Supplementary Material**

The test substance, NiCl2.6H2O, caused a dose-related decrease in spleen cells, reaching statistical significance at the highest exposure dose of 81 µg Ni/m3. This decrease was not associated with a concomitant decrease in the measures of Specific Activity. Spleen cell counts by themselves are not considered relevant measures of immunotoxicity in this assay, so we do not consider the decrease in spleen cells by itself a measure of immunosuppression. However, if this was to be taken as an adverse outcome due to the test substance, then the NOAEC will be the Group 3 dose, 44 µg Ni/m3.

Whilst the cumulative uncertainty factor applied by CalEPA in calculating the 1-hr reference exposure limit from Graham et al. (1978) was 1000, the POD used was BMDL. Using the NOAEC (44 µg Ni/m3) as a POD and applying a lower cumulative uncertainty factor of 300, a 24-hr reference exposure standard would be as follows:

(44 µg Ni/m3)/300= **0.15 µg Ni/m3**

This ambient standard value corresponds to PM10 based on the particle size distribution of the Ni aerosol in this study.

An alternative approach is to calculate the HEC by applying dosimetric adjustments from animal-to-human to the POD. Using the TCEQ RDDR for particulate matter of 4.423 to the POD, a HEC of 195 µg Ni/m3 was calculated (ie, 44 µg Ni/m3 x 4.423 = 195 µg Ni/m3). Using this HEC as a POD and applying the TCEQ total uncertainty factor of 100, a 24-hr reference exposure standard would be as follows:

(196 µg Ni/m3)/100= **1.96 µg Ni/m3**