

What is a Mixture Assessment Factor or MAF?

1

Let's start with a cup. This cup holds the maximum amount of acceptable risk from exposure to chemicals. **We call it the 'risk cup'.**



2

Classic chemical risk assessment assumes that risks only occur when the cup overflows.



3

Currently, chemical risk assessment usually considers only one chemical - each chemical is allowed to fill one cup.



4

But in reality, we are exposed to several chemicals at once and the 'risk cup' overflows - **we are not protected from the combined exposure to chemicals.**



5

The solution is to reduce by a factor - **the MAF** - the space every chemical gets to contribute to the overall combined risk in the cup.



6

Like this, there is room for all chemicals and **we are better protected from real life exposure**



The 'risk cup' should be able to hold hundreds of chemicals and also leave extra room for the unknown.
All worrisome substances with no safe level of exposure, e.g. endocrine disrupting chemicals, should be substituted wherever possible.