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ambient samples; 2.2.4.2 Trend analysis; 2.2.4.3 Breach of regulatory limits/compliance; 2.2.4.4 Assessment of environmental impact; 2.3 Quality issues in the use of bioassays  
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3.3.6.1 Chlorophenols; 3.3.6.2 Chlorinated paraffins; 3.4 Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs); 3.5 Medical and veterinary drugs; 3.6 Acid rain and acidification of the environment; References; 4 Frameworks for the application of toxicity data; 4.1 Introduction; 4.1.1 Background and objectives; 4.2 The purpose of bioassays; 4.2.1 Toxicity tests within a triad of techniques; 4.2.2 Advantages and disadvantages of toxicity testing; 4.3 Interpretation of toxicological data; 4.3.1 Field validation  
4.3.2 Application factors

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## Sommario/riassunto

As an integral component of environmental policy, it has become essential to regulate and monitor toxic substances. Past emphasis has been primarily on analytical approaches to the detection of specific, targeted contaminants, thus allowing chemical characterisation. However, toxicity testing or biological assessment is necessary for ecotoxicological evaluation, and this offers marked benefits and advantages that complement chemical analysis. Key issues to be addressed include identification of pertinent tests, reproducibility and robustness of these tests, and cost considerations. This b

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