EBT Cover Letter Template for **protocol** submissions

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1. Submission data

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We are pleased to submit our manuscript **Evidence on the effects of Flame Retardant substances at ecologically relevant endpoints: A Systematic Map Protocol** to *Evidence-Based Toxicology*. We have read EBT's Instructions for Authors. We have provided below all relevant information and links as per the instructions for authors.

Our paper is a protocol for a Systematic Evidence Map

2. Basic information

We confirm that we have provided the following information:

Ref	Y/N	Item
2.1	Y	Full name, affiliations, and ORCIDs (if available) of each author
2.2	Y	Author contributions in the form of a CRediT statement (authors may find Tenzing helpful)
2.3	Y	Structured abstract
2.4	Y	Complete funding details
2.5	Y	A fully informative disclosure of interests for all authors
2.6	Y	3rd-party data and program code are fully cited (data standard: TOP 1, level 3)

We ask for a **CRediT statement** (item 2.2) to support making it easier to find and share information about author contributions. Authors may find the [Tenzing app](#) useful for CRediT statements (please remember to cite it, as per item 2.6). For **disclosures of interest**, we request both financial and non-financial interests to be declared; authors may find [this DOI template](#) helpful. For 3rd party data and code, we seek to comply with TOP data standards (specifically Top 1, Level 3: [click here for more information](#)).

3. Data availability (data standard: TOP 2, 3, 4, level 2)

For data availability, EBT aims to comply with TOP data standards (specifically Top 2, 3, and 4, Level 2: [click here for more information](#)). In general, this means we require all data to be made maximally available, but we do not ourselves attempt to replicate a study's findings from the provided data and code.

3.1 All the data, code and research materials that a researcher will need to validate or reproduce our findings will be publicly available at this location:

https://osf.io/uszfh/?view_only=128383c0c7e94526ad1190a8d18c83b1

3.2 The following data and/or materials will be unavailable for legal or ethical reasons: **All materials are available.**

4. Reporting transparency (data standard: TOP 5, level 3)

For reporting transparency, EBT aims to comply with TOP data standard 5, level 3 (modified). In essence, this means we ask submitting authors to select and complete one or more checklists that they judge to be appropriate for their research type, that support full disclosure of all key aspects of the design and analysis of their study. [Click here for more information about the relevant TOP standard](#).

4.1 We used the **ROSES Reporting Standards for Systematic Evidence Syntheses** checklist to facilitate comprehensive disclosure of key aspects of research design and data analysis.

4.2 We selected the above checklist because it ensures that all necessary content required by the Collaboration for Environmental Evidence (CEE) Guidelines for Systematic Reviews and/or Maps in environmental management is present and described in detail. ROSES provides a detailed, state-of-the-art form for reporting the methods to prevent bouncing at the peer-review stage, whilst increasing a protocol's quality and transparency.

Ref	Y/N	Item

| 4.3 | Y | A complete version of our selected checklist is in the supplemental materials |

5. Level of bias control in data collection

This section concerns authors' sight of data ahead of their planned study, and the level of risk this poses for introducing bias into the collection and analysis of data in the planned research. EBT follows policy consistent with a Level One Registered Reports journal, where preregistration is permitted so long as authors have not already analysed key variables in the data (for more detail, see [section 2.6 of PCI-RR guidance](#)). Below, we ask authors to describe the level of bias control they are aiming for in their preregistration process, and explain their interpretation of the level.

Ref	Preregistration Level
5.1	We believe our study is best described as preregistration level Select ([quick guide](#))

6. Index of supplemental materials

Supplemental materials contain the additional data needed for understanding and replicating the methods used in a study. Asks submitting authors to provide a numbering system, plain English title, and any necessary explanatory notes as needed, to help readers identify at a glance the content of the materials they may need to access.

We have provided the following supplemental materials alongside our Working Paper:

Number	Title	Notes (if applicable)
2.1.	ROSES Checklist	
2.2.	Code Book for Database	Code Book design for inputting raw data into the final SEM database
2.3.	Extraction for Qualtrics Survey	Detailed breakdown of the Qualtrics Survey to be used when extracting data from an article at the full study stage
2.4.	Search String	Search terms based on the PECO framework used to inform the final search terms used across databases.
2.5.	Search Terms	Overview of search strings to be used (including boolean operators) and the database in which it will be searched