



The Chemical Company

August 30, 2005

Univar USA Inc.
PO Box 34325
Seattle, WA 98124-1325

Dear Distributor:

BASF Corporation has learned of research on potential health effects of one of our Products: N,N Dimethylethanolamine (DMEA). While these studies were not conducted by BASF, we believe that the results are of interest to our customers and therefore we are providing you with the information below.

A scientist from the University of Pittsburgh published 2 articles dealing with possible developmental toxicity effects on DMEA. While the study protocol did not exactly follow OECD guidelines, it must be regarded as scientifically acceptable. No meaningful toxicity was observed in all dams (mothers) in the study. However, the newborn pups treated with DMEA died within 36 hours post birth with a mortality rate of 92%, respectively. A more detailed description of the studies is available upon request.

It is possible that aminoalcohols MAY have developmental toxic effects. BASF is participating in a group, under the umbrella of the American Chemistry Council's Alkanolamines Panel, to collect data and define the need for follow up research on aminoalcohols.

Until this research provides a better interpretation of the data, DMEA should not be used for human application either with recommended dermal contact or oral ingestion. **Therefore, BASF will not sell DMEA into cosmetics or dietary supplement markets.**

Also at the workplace DMEA should be treated like a potential teratogen, pending the results of additional toxicity testing. Personal protective equipment (PPE) for aminoalcohols should include butyl rubber gloves, chemical resistant coveralls, chemical splash goggles, used as directed by your site's PPE assessment.

If you need further information, please contact Patricia Cruse at 973 245 6854.

Best regards,

Frank Bergonzi
Director, Distribution Program Mgt.

- 1) Katyal S.L. et al., *Pediat. Res.* 12: 952-955 (1978)
- 2) Zahniser N.R. et al., *Journal of Neurochemistry* 30: 1245-1252 (1978)
- 3) Fisher M.C. et al., *The FASEB Journal* 16, 619-621 (2002)