



Borden Chemical, Inc.
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614 225 4000

August 13, 2004

Attn: Purchasing Manager
Univar USA Inc
E8201 S 212th St
Kent WA 96031

As a valued customer of formaldehyde or formaldehyde-containing products, we are writing to inform you that the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has announced it will formally reclassify formaldehyde from a "probable" to a "known" carcinogen in the near future. IARC is an international advisory body that reviews and identifies the potential carcinogenicity of various chemicals and materials.

The IARC action is based on the findings of an internal working group that concluded there is now "sufficient" evidence that formaldehyde is causally associated with cancers of the nasopharyngeal cancers. This conclusion is not surprising since earlier studies had found a possible link between significant formaldehyde exposures and nasopharyngeal cancers. The IARC decision is based primarily on one main study that found 10 cases of nasopharyngeal cancer out of a group of nearly 26,000 workers employed 30-60 years ago. IARC determined that the same studies were not sufficient to establish a causal association with other forms of cancer or leukemia.

It is important to note that today's current strict industrial workplace standards are far more protective of human health. Almost all of the workplace exposures in the studies reviewed by IARC occurred in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Levels of formaldehyde in the workplace have declined dramatically since then due to improved manufacturing technology and industrial hygiene measures.

Borden Chemical for many years has provided information about the potential carcinogenicity of formaldehyde through its Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), labels and various other communication materials. As a result, we believe users have been well informed about the potential hazards and, more importantly, the protective measures available for safe handling of formaldehyde. Any required changes to the MSDS and labels as a result of the IARC finding will be communicated in separate, future correspondence.

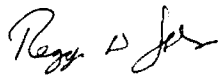


We again encourage all of our customers to follow OSHA and other government-required standards and proper industrial hygiene practices when using or handling formaldehyde or formaldehyde-based products. These measures include monitoring employee exposures, using engineering controls, good work practices and personal protective equipment to minimize exposure, implementing medical surveillance when required and providing hazard communication and worker training.

Borden Chemical will continue to work with and share information with industry, scientific experts and government agencies and, of course, our valued customers. We also will continue our own strong product research efforts that have developed process improvements that reduce exposure, and resin products with reduced formaldehyde levels and emissions.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact your Borden Chemical sales representative or Mark Gruenwald, our Director of Product Safety at (614) 225-3459 or gruenwaldm@bordenchem.com. Your continued interest in Borden Chemical products and responsible, safe stewardship in their use is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reggie Jenkins".

Reggie Jenkins
Global Business Director



Borden Chemical

Important Health & Safety Information About Formaldehyde and Formaldehyde-Containing Resin Products

The Issue: Formaldehyde Recently Classified As A "Known Carcinogen" By IARC

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently convened a "Working Group" of scientists to review available scientific data on formaldehyde. The Working Group spent approximately one week reviewing numerous studies and scientific data regarding the potential health effects of formaldehyde and voted to reclassify formaldehyde as a "known carcinogen." IARC concluded that formaldehyde, at the high doses seen in studies of workers employed primarily in the 1930s through 1970s, could cause a rare nasopharyngeal cancer in humans. The IARC classification is a "hazard identification," not a finding of risk. Previously, IARC in 1987 classified formaldehyde as a "probable human carcinogen" and maintained that classification upon review again in 1995.

Modern Technology and Current Regulations Have Significantly Reduced Exposure Levels

Levels of formaldehyde in the workplace have declined dramatically over the past few decades due to improved manufacturing practices and advances in resin chemistry, resulting in significant reductions of emissions in the workplace, in ambient air and in indoor air. U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) limits on exposures, requirements for monitoring employee exposures, required uses of engineering controls, mandatory medical surveillance and improved hazard communication and training guidance have helped lower exposures levels in the workplace and protect worker health.

Borden Chemical has taken a lead role in working to improve technology to reduce emissions. We continue to fully support the comprehensive OSHA formaldehyde standard (29 CFR 1910.1048.), which helps protect human health and ensures responsible production, handling and use. Borden Chemical and others in our industry encourage continued comprehensive monitoring and control of formaldehyde exposures.

What This New Classification Means to Your Operation

We believe that current OSHA regulations provide a comprehensive approach to regulating exposures to formaldehyde in the workplace and ensuring worker safety and a safe workplace environment. Thus, we do not anticipate significant new regulatory impact from this new classification. Since the late 1980s, OSHA has regulated exposures to formaldehyde to a level of below 0.75 ppm averaged over a workday and to 2 ppm for short-term (15 minute) periods. By comparison, in the 1940s recommended exposure limits were as high as 10 ppm. Recommended levels were lowered to 5 ppm in the 50s and 60's and subsequently to 1 to 3 ppm in the 70s. Also, indoor air levels of formaldehyde typically fall in the 0.03 to 0.05 ppm range, which is well below EPA's 0.1 ppm informal level of concern and the World Health Organization's recommended guideline of 0.08 ppm. Borden Chemical will continue to monitor regulatory developments regarding formaldehyde and will work to keep you informed of any significant changes.

Formaldehyde and Derivative Resins: Valuable Products That Must Be Handled Properly

Formaldehyde is a critical ingredient in the production of hundreds of items that improve everyday life. While little or no formaldehyde is present in the final product, the chemical is an essential building block in the production of some of the most common consumer items, including paper towels, furniture, cabinets, photographic film, and some cosmetics and personal care products. Like any chemical product, proper care should be followed when formaldehyde or formaldehyde-containing materials such as resins are handled, stored, used and shipped, and all regulations including prescribed protective measures must be followed.

Look to Borden Chemical for More Information

As a leading global producer of formaldehyde and derivatives, Borden Chemical has taken a leading role in improving technology, reducing emissions, and furthering scientific knowledge on this versatile product. As a valued customer, you can look to Borden Chemical to provide you information about this product as part of our overall product stewardship. Borden Chemical has a number of services to help our customers understand their obligations in the proper storage, handling and use of formaldehyde and formaldehyde-containing products. If you need assistance in this area, please contact your Borden Chemical sales representative. For additional information, contact Mark Gruenwald, C.I.H., Director, Product Safety and Responsible Care at 614 225 3459 or via email at gruenwaldm@bordenchem.com.

Additional Resources

www.formaldehyde.org

www.osha.gov/SLTC/formaldehyde

www.formaldehyde-europe.org

<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts111.html>

www.epa.gov

www.iarc.fr



Borden Chemical, Inc.
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215
614 225 4000

For worldwide locations visit
bordenchem.com

©2004 Borden Chemical, Inc. BCI-213 Rev. 08/04 Printed in U.S.A.



© Registered trademark of Borden Chemical, Inc. ™ Trademark of Borden Chemical, Inc. *Responsible Care is a registered service mark of the American Chemistry Council.

BORDEN CHEMICAL MAKES NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, CONCERNING ANY PRODUCT OR THE MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE OR CONCERNING THE ACCURACY OF ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED BY BORDEN CHEMICAL, except that the product shall conform to contracted specifications, and that the product does not infringe any valid United States patent. The information provided herein was believed by Borden Chemical to be accurate at the time of preparation or prepared from sources believed to be reliable, but it is the responsibility of the user to investigate and understand other pertinent sources of information, to comply with all laws and procedures applicable to the safe handling and use of the product and to determine the suitability of the product for its intended use.