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EU Study on two important Brominated Flame Retardants concludes no major endocrine effects

EU Research Cluster, CREDO, announces results of exposure studies on fish

The European Union Research Cluster on endocrine disruption, CREDO, has just announced the results of long-term exposure studies on two of the largest volume brominated flame retardants, concluding that there were “no major endocrine effects found in fish”.

The FIRE project (Flame retardants Integrated Risk assessment for Endocrine effects), set up under CREDO, performed three studies on estuarine flounders with long-term exposure to TBBPA and HBCD. Despite the significantly higher exposure levels than that found in the wild, the CREDO report concludes that the flounders’ “general health and toxicity parameters (behavior, survival, growth rate, and relative liver and gonad weight) were not affected”.

The results of these studies, together with other data, are contributing to the ongoing EU risk assessments of TBBPA and HBCD.

CREDO stands for the *Cluster of Research into Endocrine Disruption in Europe*. Its responsibility is to coordinate European Environmental and Human Health Research on the effect of chemicals on endocrine disruption. For more information on the results of the FIRE studies, see their latest newsletter: <http://www.credocluster.info/docs/newsletter/credonews5.pdf>.

About TBBPA and HBCD:

TBBPA (Tetrabromobisphenol-A) is primarily used as a reactive flame retardant in the epoxy resin of FR4 laminates for printed circuit boards, and as an additive flame retardant mainly in ABS plastics.

HBCD (Hexabromocyclododecane) is used as a flame retardant in thermal insulation foam and in textile coatings.