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Studies mentioned by NGO report already factored into EU Risk Assessments - no risk for health identified

Studies referred to in Greenpeace's recent report¹ have long been known to EU scientists and were integrated into the relevant EU Risk Assessments of the major commercial brominated flame retardants TBBPA and Deca-BDE. These EU Risk Assessments found no human health risk related to TBBPA² and Deca-BDE³.

Greenpeace's claim that there are a "limited" number of studies on BFRs is unjustified. For example, for Deca-BDE, a 10-year EU Risk Assessment covered over 588 studies. This is also the case for the EU's Health Risk Assessment of TBBPA, which looked at 120 studies, including those mentioned by the recent Greenpeace report.

This EU Risk Assessment conclusion for TBBPA is confirmed by recent additional studies carried out by the European Union research programme on endocrine disruption, CREDO⁴, which announced on 16 February 2006 the results of long-term studies on TBBPA. CREDO concluded that there were "no major endocrine effects found in fish" in studies carried out on TBBPA. These results will be incorporated in the environmental part of TBBPA's EU Risk Assessment.

It is to be regretted that once again Greenpeace demonstrate its lack of confidence in the EU risk assessment process and continues to question the health impact of well-tested substances for which the scientific conclusions do not match its own position.

TBBPA and Deca-BDE are used in the electronics industry to increase component resistance to fire and are two of the most tested chemicals. This testing has demonstrated that these flame retardants can continue to be used safely.

¹ "Fragile: Our reproductive health and chemical exposure", April 06

² TBBPA health risk assessment report is available on the European Chemicals Bureau website at: <http://ecb.jrc.it/>

³ Deca-BDE health risk assessment report is available on the European Chemicals Bureau website at: <http://ecb.jrc.it/>

⁴ More information on CREDO-FIRE project can be obtained at: <http://www.credocluster.info/fire.html>