

25 November 2005

EU confirms no classification of TBBPA for health

On 16 November, at a meeting of experts on classification and labelling¹ the EU Member States confirmed that Tetrabromobisphenol A (TBBPA)² is not subject to any classification for health.

This decision follows the EU human health risk assessment, completed on May 2005, which concluded that TBBPA presents no risk to human health³.

TBBPA is classified in the EU as an R50/53 substance for the environment⁴. However, such a hazard can be managed by appropriate product stewardship measures. TBBPA is a brominated flame retardant mainly employed as a starting material that fully reacts into the epoxy resins of the most commonly used laminates for printed wiring boards. This full integration into the epoxy resin ensures that the final product, FR4 printed wiring boards, no longer contains TBBPA, leaving the user free from any possible exposure.

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¹ Council Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances. Official Journal of the European Communities 196, 16.8.1967, p. 1.

² CAS No. 79-94-7

³ See the EURisk assessment report on the European Chemical Bureau website at:

http://ecb.jrc.it/DOCUMENTS/Existing-Chemicals/RISK_ASSESSMENT/DRAFT/R402_0505_hh.pdf

⁴ R50 and 53 stand for 'toxic to aquatic organisms' and 'May cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment'