

EU Risk Assessment of TBBPA – Update EU Technical Committee confirms no Health Effects from TBBPA

This update aims to provide stakeholders with information on the status of the EU's TBBPA Risk Assessment.

Background and Timing

In 2000, the European Commission listed TBBPA as one of the priority substances for risk assessment. The process of an EU Risk Assessment is based on the EU's Existing Substance Regulation (793/93/EC) and is the most comprehensive assessment of the environmental and human health risks related to the life cycle of a chemical, in this case TBBPA, including its manufacture, use and end-of-life management.

TBBPA is used as an additive flame retardant in certain plastics for electrical and electronic equipment, but its primary application is as a reactive flame retardant for printed wiring board laminates.

The ongoing scientific evaluation of TBBPA is led by the United Kingdom and the adoption of the final EU Risk Assessment Report is expected in 2005.

Review by the Technical Committee for New and Existing Substances (TC NES) 3rd December 2004

Human Health Report discussion – concludes no risk

A new revised Risk Assessment Report (RAR) was discussed by TC NES. The TC NES confirmed that for all scenarios no health effects of concern have been identified for TBBPA. Important endpoints such as potential effects on neurodevelopment or thyroid effects have been reviewed in detail and the TC NES confirmed that there is no concern for these endpoints. The rapporteur will now finalize the RAR, including a risk characterisation, and circulate a final report in February 2005.

EU Timeline

The Human Health RAR is scheduled to be completed in February 2005. This final report is subject to "written procedure". This means that depending on comments made by other member states, the human health part will either be finalised or a final discussion at TC NES level will take place.

The Environment RAR is tentatively scheduled for a "last-visit" discussion (i.e. conclusion) at a further TC NES meeting, to be held in June 2005 once additional studies have been completed. Additional studies are ongoing on potential effects of TBBPA on the aquatic environment and the soil compartment. When these studies have been finalised they will be added to the draft risk assessment report that will be discussed by TC NES in June 2005

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