

28 January 2008

### Scientific Committee Opinion Confirms EU Environment Risk Assessment of TBBPA

On 15 January, the European Commission's Scientific Committee SCHER<sup>1</sup> adopted its opinion<sup>2</sup> on the environmental part of the TBBPA Risk Assessment, which was concluded in June 2007. The SCHER Opinion considers that *"the environmental part of the risk assessment of tetrabromobisphenol-A is in general of good quality"*.

The SCHER agrees with the conclusions of the study results presented in the Risk Assessment Report (RAR). It also believes that different assessment factors used for freshwater and marine systems are very stringent, leading in practice to a high level of safety for the environment. The SCHER Opinion recommends a conclusion i) for the possible TBBPA degradation to bisphenol-A, which was already included in the RAR conclusions<sup>3</sup>.

The Commission will reference the SCHER Opinion, together with the RAR and the Risk Reduction Strategy (RRS), when publishing its final Recommendation on TBBPA in the Official Journal. The conclusion of TBBPA RAR will enable a smooth transition of TBBPA through the REACH registration procedure, as the science needed to register TBBPA is already completed under the frame of the RAR.

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Note to the Editor: The health part of TBBPA's RA was closed in 2005 and identified no risk. The Environment part, concluded in June 2007, identified no risk for TBBPA when used as a reactive<sup>4</sup>, such as in the epoxy resins of printed circuit boards. A risk for soil, sediment and water was confirmed at the production stage when TBBPA is added to one specific type of plastics (ABS). As a result, the EU approved a Risk Reduction Strategy which addresses this risk through industrial site emissions reduction and does not foresee restrictions on TBBPA marketing and use.

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<sup>1</sup> SCHER - the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks – is in charge of questions relating to examinations of toxicity and ecotoxicity of chemicals, biochemicals and biological compounds for human health and the environment

<sup>2</sup> Link to the SCHER Opinion on the TBBPA Environment Risk Assessment:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_risk/committees/04\\_scher/docs/scher\\_o\\_071.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_scher/docs/scher_o_071.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> According to the Technical Guidance Document on Risk Assessment, 2003, "conclusion (i)" means that there is a need for further information and/or testing

<sup>4</sup> TBBPA is used to comply with global fire safety requirements mainly as a reactive chemical in epoxy resins of printed circuit board laminates (such as FR4, CM-1 and CM-3) and as an additive to ABS plastics