

1<sup>st</sup> April 2005**EU Scientific Opinion on the EU Risk Assessment of Deca-BDE**

The SCHER Opinion needs to be looked at in its entirety and not selectively quoted. The SCHER finds the updated environmental Risk Assessment Report on Deca-BDE to be “well done”. The SCHER understandably seeks reassurances that the EU should not wait to consider any significant new science as it arises. This should be the same for any scientific study on any substance. The European Commission's recent proposal to exempt Deca-BDE from the RoHS Directive on electronics was made subsequent to, and took full account of, the SCHER Opinion.

The issues raised by the SCHER over emissions to the environment which lead them to recommend a need for risk reduction are already being addressed by an extensive environmental monitoring study carried out as a follow-up to the 10-year risk assessment, which identified no risks to the environment or human health, and by an industry programme of voluntary emissions reduction. The industry is consulting EU environmental regulators and NGOs on the implementation of this programme, which is already achieving emission reductions in the UK of up to 90% in the textiles sector.

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