TOXICOLOGICAL PROFILE FOR BIS(CHLOROMETHYL)ETHER

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
U.S. Public Health Service

In collaboration with:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

December 1989

DISCLAIMER

Mention of company name or product does not constitute endorsement by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

FOREWORD

The Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-499) extended and amended the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA or Superfund). This public law (also known as SARA) directed the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to prepare toxicological profiles for hazardous substances which are most commonly found at facilities on the CERCLA National Priorities List and which pose the most significant potential threat to human health, as determined by ATSDR and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The lists of the most significant hazardous substances were published in the Federal Register on April 17, 1987, and on October 20, 1988.

Section 110 (3) of SARA directs the Administrator of ATSDR to prepare a toxicological profile for each substance on the list. Each profile must include the following content:

(A) An examination, summary and interpretation of available toxicological information and epidemiological evaluations on the hazardous substance in order to ascertain the levels of significant human exposure for the substance and the associated acute, subacute, and chronic health effects,

(B) A determination of whether adequate information on the health effects of each substance is available or in the process of development to determine levels of exposure which present a significant risk to human health of acute, subacute, or chronic health effects, and

(C) Where appropriate, an identification of toxicological testing needed to identify the types or levels of exposure that may present significant risk of adverse health effects in humans.

This toxicological profile is prepared in accordance with guidelines developed by ATSDR and EPA. The original guidelines were published in the Federal Register on April 17, 1987. Each profile will be revised and republished as necessary, but no less often than every 3 years, as required by SARA.

The ATSDR toxicological profile is intended to characterize succinctly the toxicological and health effects information for the hazardous substance being described. Each profile identifies and reviews the key literature that

describes a hazardous substance's toxicological properties. Other literature is presented but described in less detail than the key studies. The profile is not intended to be an exhaustive document; however, more comprehensive sources of specialty information are referenced.

Each toxicological profile begins with a public health statement, which describes in nontechnical language a substance's relevant toxicological properties. Following the statement is material that presents levels of significant human exposure and, where known, significant health effects. The adequacy of information to determine a substance's health effects is described in a health effects summary. Data needs that are of significance to protection of public health will be identified by ATSDR, the National Toxicology Program of the Public Health Service, and EPA. The focus of the profiles is on health and toxicological information; therefore, we have included this information in the front of the document.

The principal audiences for the toxicological profiles are health professionals at the federal, state, and local levels, interested private sector organizations and groups, and members of the public. We plan to revise these documents as additional data become available.

This profile reflects our assessment of all relevant toxicological testing and information that has been peer reviewed. It has been reviewed by scientists from ATSDR, EPA, the Centers for Disease Control, and the National Toxicology Program. It has also been reviewed by a panel of nongovernment peer reviewers and was made available for public review. Final responsibility for the contents and views expressed in this toxicological profile resides with ATSDR.

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Disease Registry

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