

Recommendation for classification: Tricresylphosphate executive summary



At the request of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, the Health Council of the Netherlands evaluated the effects of tricresylphosphate on reproduction. This advisory report was drafted by the Subcommittee on the Classification of Substances Toxic to Reproduction of the Dutch Expert Committee on Occupational Safety (DECOS) of the Health Council, hereafter called the Committee. The Health Council has a permanent task in assessing the hazard of substances to which man can be occupationally exposed. More information about this task can be found at www.gezondheidsraad.nl.

Use of tricresylphosphate

Tricresylphosphate (TCP) is used as a flame retardant in polystyrene and other thermoplastics, as a PVC plasticiser, lubricant and as hydraulic fluid. It is used in occupational settings such as in the media printing industry, formulation of mixtures and scientific research. TCP is also used as additive in turbine engine oil.

Classification based on evidence

To assess effects on reproduction, the Committee evaluates the effects on male and female fertility and on the development of the offspring.

Moreover, the Committee considers effects of a substance on lactation and on the offspring via lactation. If the data indicate hazardous properties, the Committee recommends classification in a hazard category. The classification is performed according to EU-regulation (EC) 1272/2008.

Reviewed literature

No human data were available. There were limited data from animal studies available regarding effects of exposure to TCP on fertility and developmental effects. The fertility study showed reduced fertility in rats after exposure to TCP. The available data on functional developmental effects indicated concerns, but are not sufficient for classification. No data were available to assess the effects of exposure to TCP on or via lactation.

Recommendations to the Minister

Based on the available scientific data, the Committee recommends:

- to classify TCP as suspected to be a reproductive toxicant to humans, which corresponds with category 2 for reproduction, and to



label TCP with H361f (suspected of damaging fertility);

- not to classify TCP for developmental toxicity due to a lack of appropriate data;
- not to classify TCP for effects during lactation due to a lack of data.

This publication can be downloaded from www.healthcouncil.nl.

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