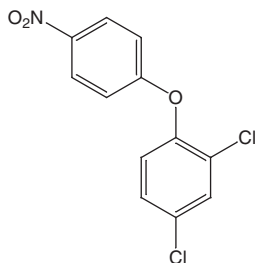


Nitrofen (2,4-Dichlorophenyl-*p*-Nitrophenyl Ether)

CAS No. 1836-75-5

Reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen
First Listed in the *Third Annual Report on Carcinogens* (1983)



Carcinogenicity

Nitrofen is *reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen* based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals (NCI 1978, 1979, IARC 1983). When administered in the diet, technical-grade nitrofen increased the incidences of hepatocellular carcinomas and adenomas in mice of both sexes, hemangiosarcomas of the liver or spleen in male mice, and anaplastic adenocarcinomas of the pancreas in female rats.

No adequate human studies of the relationship between exposure to nitrofen and human cancer have been reported (IARC 1983).

Properties

Nitrofen is the common name of the compound 2,4-dichlorophenyl-*p*-nitrophenyl ether. It occurs as a white solid, as crystals, as a yellow crystalline solid, and as a dark brown free-flowing solid. The molecular weight of nitrofen is 284.1, its melting point is 70°C to 71°C, and its boiling point is 180°C to 190°C at 0.25 mm Hg. It is slightly soluble in water and soluble in acetone, methanol, and xylene (HSDB 2001).

Use

There are no current commercial uses for nitrofen. Nitrofen was previously used as a contact herbicide for pre- and post-emergence control of annual grasses and broadleaf weeds on a variety of food and ornamental crops (Gosselin *et al.* 1984, Farm Chem. Hdbk. 1985). Nitrofen was applied to crops in approximately 25 states by growers of rice, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, brussel sprouts, onions, garlic, and celery; the estimated direct crop use of nitrofen in 1980 was 882,000 lb (HSDB 2001). Nitrofen also was used in nurseries that grew roses and chrysanthemums and on roadsides, but it was not used around homes and gardens.

Production

Nitrofen is no longer manufactured or sold in the United States (HSDB 2001). According to NCI, more than 5,000 lb of nitrofen were produced in 1980. In 1980, the sole manufacturer of nitrofen recalled all existing stocks of the herbicide from dealers, distributors, and users. Chem Sources (2001) indicated that there are currently 11 suppliers of nitrofen in the United States. The 1979 TSCA Inventory identified one producer of nitrofen, with no production volume reported. The CBI Aggregate was less than 1 million lb (TSCA 1979).

Exposure

The primary routes of potential human exposure to nitrofen are inhalation, dermal contact, and ingestion. Occupational exposure to nitrofen, mainly through inhalation and dermal contact, may have possibly occurred among workers at production facilities. Field

handlers of the herbicide were subject to possible inhalation exposure during application procedures. The National Occupational Hazard Survey, conducted by NIOSH from 1972 to 1974, made no estimate of the number of workers potentially exposed to nitrofen.

Regulations

EPA

Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act

Toxics Release Inventory: Listed substance subject to reporting requirements

Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act

All products have been voluntarily cancelled

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