

HOW DOES PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE AFFECT HUMAN HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT?

Effects of phthalic anhydride on human health and the environment depend on how much phthalic anhydride is present and the length and frequency of exposure. Effects also depend on the health of a person or the condition of the environment when exposure occurs.

Workers repeatedly exposed to large amounts of phthalic anhydride have experienced irritation of the eyes, the skin, and the respiratory system. Phthalic anhydride can also cause lung sensitization in humans and in animals. These effects are not likely to occur at levels of phthalic anhydride that are normally found in the environment.

Human health effects associated with breathing or otherwise consuming small amounts of phthalic anhydride are not known. Workers repeatedly exposed to phthalic anhydride have developed allergic reactions, such as asthma and bronchitis. Laboratory studies show that repeated exposure to large amounts of phthalic anhydride in food causes adverse effects in the lungs, the kidneys, the adrenal gland, and the thalamus of animals. Limited evidence shows that phthalic anhydride may also cause changes in cells important to the reproductive system of animals. Whether these changes affect the ability of animals to reproduce is not known.

Phthalic anhydride is not likely to cause environmental harm at levels normally found in the environment.

WHAT EPA OFFICES OR OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES OR OTHER GROUPS CAN I CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE?

EPA OFFICE	LAW	PHONE NUMBER
Pollution Prevention & Toxics	Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) (§ 313/ Toxics Release Inventory data)	(202) 260-1531
	Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) (§4 and §12b)	(202) 554-1404
Air	Clean Air Act	(919) 541-0888
Solid Waste & Emergency Response	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)	(415) 744-2074
	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund)	(800) 535-0202

For general information on reducing or eliminating industrial pollutants through technology transfer, education, and public awareness, contact the Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse, (202) 260-1023.

OTHER FEDERAL AGENCY/DEPARTMENT OR GROUP	PHONE NUMBER
American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists	(513) 742-2020
Consumer Product Safety Commission	(301) 504-0994
Food & Drug Administration	(301) 443-3170
National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health	(800) 356-4674
Occupational Safety & Health Administration <i>(Check local phone book for phone number under Department of Labor)</i>	

The Support Document for this and other OPPT Chemical Fact Sheets can be found on the Internet at:
<http://www.epa.gov/chemfact>