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TASK DESCRIPTION

Amines in Spray Polyurethane Foam

1. Background

Many homeowners and governments are expected to use insulating products, such as spray foams, to increase the energy efficiency of their residences and constructed buildings. Homes can be insulated with spray polyurethane foam (SPF) by hiring a contractor to do the work or by homeowners using a do-it-yourself (DIY) kit. SPF has also been used by consumers for arts and crafts projects.

The final foam product is formed by an exothermic chemical reaction between approximately equal amounts of methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) or MDI-based isocyanates and a mixture of polyols and other chemicals (i.e., catalysts, blowing agents, fire retardants, or surfactants), which are referred to as the A- and the B-sides, respectively. Catalysts promote the reaction between these two sides by helping the polyurethane foam cells develop sufficient strength to maintain their structure to resist collapsing or becoming deformed and completing the reaction or "curing" the finished foam. Most catalysts used in SPF are amine-based with the B-side typically containing 1 to 5% amine catalyst. Respirators and other protective equipment are recommended to minimize exposure to vapors, aerosols, and particulates of MDI and other chemicals during the spray application and subsequent operations.

Along with the energy-saving benefits of SPF, there are significant questions about the potential health effects that this material may have on those applying the foam as well as the occupants of the buildings treated with SPF. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received several complaints from homeowners after SPF was installed either by a contractor or by themselves. These complaints include lingering odors in the house, respiratory-related problems (i.e., asthma, coughing), irritation (i.e., eyes, throat), and headaches.

CPSC staff has had first focused its attention on the diiosocyantes in SPF as the chemicals potentially causing these reported health effects. The constituents that make up the A-side have generally been considered to present the greatest potential hazard due to their well-known potential to produce respiratory and dermal sensitization (isocyanates are believed to be a leading cause of work-related asthma); however, isocyanates are very reactive. Therefore, the odors identified after SPF installation may not be due to the isocyanates but to the chemicals making up the B-side, such as amine catalysts. Also, overexposure to airborne concentrations of amine catalysts may result in irritation or sensitization of the respiratory system, skin, and eyes. Inhalation exposure may also cause a reversible effect known as glaucopsia, "blue haze", or "halovision" in the eyes. Glaucopsia is characterized by clouding or fogging of vision due to swelling of the outer layer of the cornea. Once the exposure is removed, vision is gradually restored. In general, exposure limits are not yet established for the majority of the amine catalysts used in SPF systems.

Within a few minutes of application, the foam achieves a tack-free state when the foam surface is no longer sticky. Depending on the characteristics of the foam, such as the composition of the B-side chemicals, the heat dissipated during the exothermic reaction, and ambient conditions (temperature and humidity), it can take an additional 23 to 72 hours before the foam is fully

cured and the optimum physical properties of the foam are achieved. Because some of the compounds in the A- and B-sides are expected to exist unreacted in the foam (e.g., certain catalysts and blowing agents), they may potentially be emitted from the installed foam and cause the noted health effects. Also, an improper balance in mixing of the A- and B-sides may also lead to off gassing. It is typically recommended that entire residential and smaller commercial buildings or portions of large commercial buildings be vacated during the installation of SPF due to the potential hazards caused by these unreacted compounds. Furthermore, SPF, like many other new building materials, can emit low levels of various chemicals for a short period of time following installation. Therefore, the time at which people reoccupy a building following the completion of SPF installation is an important consideration. The suggested reoccupancy times for an interior application using a DIY kit or a two-component high-pressure SPF is commonly 8 and 24 hours, respectively; however, this varies based to the variables mentioned above.

2. Objective

The objectives of this task are to summarize the available toxicological and exposure data on the amine catalysts found in most SPF formulations.

3. Description of Task

The Contractor will:

- Meet with the Project Officer by phone or in person prior to beginning the task.
- Meet with the Project Officer either by phone or in person following the completion of each of the subtasks listed below to discuss progress on the task. The scope of the task may need to be narrowed or expanded, as appropriate.

(1) Select and obtain references for all of the selected amine catalysts that are involved in SPF manufacturing by including data relating to relevant physico-chemical properties **and** the potential for human toxicity and exposure.

- The CPSC staff will provide a list of 5 amine catalysts that are most commonly used in SPF formulations by Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number. The Contractor will consider synonyms and chemical names in addition to the CAS number.
- The Contractor may rely on authoritative reviews for general toxicity and physiochemical information, but should review key references on health effects. Key references include those that identify no adverse effect levels, lowest adverse effect levels, or dose response information for carcinogenicity, reproductive/developmental effects, acute organ toxicity, or chronic organ toxicity.
- The Contractor shall provide estimates for the outlined work covering the 5 amine catalysts on a per chemical basis.
- In reviewing the toxicity data, a higher priority will be given to studies relating to human toxicity. This will include data in humans, animal studies, and *in vitro* studies.

(2) After consulting with the CPSC Project Officer, summarize the relevant references into a report for each amine.

- Reports shall break discussion points into the following format where possible. This format is not all inclusive and can be added to or subtracted from when information does or does not exist.
 - o 1. Introduction
 - o 2. Physico-chemical Characteristics
 - to include basic physico-chemical data, CAS numbers, chemical names, trade names, and synonyms as identified in ChemIDplus (http://chem.sis.nlm.nih.gov/chemidplus/chemidlite.jsp)
 - o 3. Manufacture, Supply, and Use
 - o 4. Toxicokinetics
 - Absorption
 - Distribution
 - Metabolism
 - Excretion
 - o 5. Hazard Information
 - Acute Single Dose Toxicity
 - Acute oral toxicity
 - Acute dermal toxicity
 - Acute inhalation toxicity
 - Primary skin irritation
 - Primary eye irritation
 - Respiratory irritation
 - Sensitization
 - Acute, Subchronic, and Chronic Single- and Repeat-Dose Toxicities
 - Mortality
 - General effects (i.e., food or water consumption, body weight, clinical signs)
 - Gastrointestinal toxicity
 - Hepatotoxicity
 - Renal toxicity
 - Neurotoxicity
 - Respiratory toxicity
 - Endocrine activity
 - Thyroid toxicity
 - Reproductive toxicity
 - Prenatal, perinatal, and post-natal toxicity
 - Carcinogenicity
 - o Genotoxicity
 - o Initiation and promotion
 - o Carcinogenicity studies
 - Lowest Hazard Endpoints by Organ System and Exposure Duration
 - Overall Uncertainty

- o 6. Exposure
- o 7. Discussion
- o 8. References
- Sections under "Hazard Information" should also discuss dosing duration (i.e. Acute, Subchronic, Chronic) when the information exists.
- Copies of references cited and the report(s) will be made available to the CPSC Project Officer in electronic form where possible or paper form where electronic form is not available.
- The report is subject to CPSC clearance procedures. The Contractor will work with the CPSC Project Officer to address comments from CPSC reviewers.

4. Deliverables or Performance

The Contractor shall provide the requested information in the form of a written report for each amine to the CPSC Project Officer within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the CPSC Project Officer provides the CAS numbers for the selected amine catalysts to be evaluated. The report shall be in the format of a scientific report with full citations, tables, and figures as discussed above. The Contractor shall e-mail the report to the CPSC Project Officer in a Microsoft Word (preferred) or WordPerfect file.

5. Delivery Schedule

Item(s)	Quantity	Delivery or Performance
The CPSC Project Officer and Contractor will meet in person or by phone to discuss and initiate the project.	1	By August 30, 2011
The CPSC Project Officer will be available to consult with the Contractor by teleconference or in person.	As appropriate	At the completion of each subtask, or monthly, whichever comes first.
The CPSC Project Officer shall provide a list of 5 amine catalysts in SPF to the Contractor.	1	Within 15-30 days after the initial teleconference or meeting
The Contractor shall submit draft reports in electronic format to the CPSC Project Officer.	1	Within 90 days after receipt of the selected amines.
The CPSC Project Officer will provide type-written comments or a document edited by "Track Changes" on the draft report to the Contractor.	1	Within 30 days after receipt of the draft reports.
The Contractor shall submit electronic draft final reports to the CPSC Project Officer.	The Contractor will revise the draft final reports as appropriate.	Within 30 days after receipt of comments.
The CPSC Project Officer will submit the draft final report for CPSC clearance.	1	Within 1 week following receipt.
The CPSC Project Officer will provide type-written comments or a document edited by "Track Changes" on the draft final reports to the Contractor.	1	Within 1 week following receipt.
The Contractor will provide final reports	1	Within 10 days after receipt of comments.
Inspection and Acceptance of the final reports	The final reports will be reviewed by the CPSC Project Officer	Within 30 days after receipt of the reports.

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6. Place of Delivery

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission 4330 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814

CPSC Project Officer and contact information: Melanie B. Biggs, Ph.D. <u>mbiggs@cpsc.gov</u> 301-504-7858

7. Inspection and Acceptance

The Draft Final Toxicity and Exposure Review reports submitted to the CPSC will be reviewed within 30 days of receipt of the draft reports for any additional questions and/or comments. If returned to the Contractor as a result of the review, the Contractor shall address and/or revise their reports accordingly and return the final versions to the Project Officer within 30 days of receipt. The CPSC Project Officer will then have an additional 30 days to review the Final Toxicity and Exposure Review reports.

8. Requirement for CPSC Clearance and Disclosure of Information

The final reports are the property of the CPSC. The Contractor will not publish the final reports, present the information at scientific meetings, or in any other way make the findings public in any form (written or verbal) without the written permission of the Project Officer. Any publication must be cleared following CPSC procedures, as outlined in the Consumer Product Safety Act.