

CPSC & HHS
Products
Ink
Paint
Cleaner

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Glycol Ethers

DATE OF MEETING: September 24 and 25, 1996

PLACE: Chemical Manufacturers Association
Rosslyn, Virginia

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Laureen E. Burton

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: Laureen E. Burton
Robert Franklin

NON-COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES:

9/24/96: Propylene Glycol Ethers Panel of CMA

9/25/96: Ethylene Glycol Ethers Panel of CMA
Maureen Cislo of Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

I summarized the project consistent with the following bullets and then answered questions.

- * Exposure to some low molecular weight ethylene glycol ethers such as ethylene glycol monomethyl ether and ethylene glycol monoethyl ether and their acetates have been associated with severe adverse developmental and reproductive effects in animals.
- * Past CPSC staff reports indicated that glycol ethers were used in inks, paints, varnishes, lacquers, and cleaners.
- * Staff reviewed the use of the low molecular weight ethylene glycol ethers in consumer products in the mid-eighties and found that their manufacturers were moving away from using these chemicals in consumer products.
- * In the early 1990s, epidemiology studies indicated that workers exposed to these low molecular weight glycol ethers at levels below the accepted threshold limit values and permissible exposure limits may face an increased risk of miscarriages, spontaneous abortions, and delays in becoming pregnant.
- * Throughout the last year, staff assessed the current use of glycol ethers in consumer products to determine if any of the low molecular weight ethylene glycol ethers were still being used in consumer products and to determine what glycol ethers are currently being used.
- * Staff has identified 59 ethylene and propylene glycol ethers that may be used in consumer products.

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- * Staff identified these glycol ethers through communication with the Chemical Manufacturers Association, other federal agencies, and published reports.
- * Staff is currently working on toxicity reviews of the glycol ethers that are known or suspected of being in consumer products.
- * Based on the findings of the economics report and the toxicity reviews staff will submit a report to technical management with possible suggestions for future work, if necessary.

- * At this time the staff believes that the possible options could include any of the following:
 1. Continue monitoring use and/or testing information as it develops (as done for all chemicals used in consumer products)
 2. Attempt to identify more specifics concerning the use of the chemical through other sources such as CSMA or NPCA.
 3. Recommend additional testing be done either through organization such as NTP or by the manufacturer.
 4. Contact the chemical or product manufacturer about specific hazards or concerns.

- * The final report should be completed early in the FY97.