FACT SHEET

2-BUTOXYETHANOL

CAS #: 111-76-2

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Development Support Document (DSD) created by the Toxicology Section (TS) of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the development of Regulatory Guidelines (ESL and ReVs) for ambient exposure to this chemical. For more detailed information, please see the DSD or contact the TS by phone (1-877-992-8370) or e-mail (tox@tceq.texas.gov).

What is 2-butoxyethanol?

2-Butoxyethanol is a clear, colorless liquid that smells somewhat like ether. 2-Butoxyethanol is widely used as a solvent in spray lacquers, quick-dry lacquers, enamels, varnishes, and latex paints. 2-Butoxyethanol is also found in household cleaners, liquid soaps, cosmetics, and hair dyes and colors. It is also called butyl cellosolve, dowanol EB, glycol ether EB, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, or EGBE.

How is 2-butoxyethanol released into ambient air?

2-Butoxyethanol may be released into the air at places where it is produced or used as a solvent. Solvent-based household cleaners or building materials, such as varnishes, lacquers, latex paints, and enamels, may release 2-butoxyethanol into the air as they dry.

How can 2-butoxyethanol affect my health?

Permitted levels of 2-butoxyethanol should not cause adverse health effects. Well conducted human studies were available for developing the short-term health protective values. Short-term (one hour or less) inhalation exposure of humans to high concentrations of 2-butoxyethanol can result in irritation of the nose and eyes, headache, a metallic taste, or vomiting.

Long-term inhalation exposure of laboratory animals to high concentrations of 2-butoxyethanol can result in damage to red blood cells. However, human red blood cells are less susceptible to 2-butoxyethanol than animal red blood cells. No studies were found demonstrating cancer potential in humans or laboratory animals after exposure to 2-butoxyethanol. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified 2-butoxyethanol as not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity in humans. The TCEQ, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Toxicology Program have not classified 2-butoxyethanol as a human carcinogen.

Is 2-butoxyethanol odorous or harmful to plants?

2-Butoxyethanol may have a mild, ether-like odor at moderate levels. However, 2-butoxyethanol has not been shown to have an adverse effect on plants.

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Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for 2-butoxyethanol?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline levels (ESLs and ReVs) to protect human health and welfare. Please see Definitions of ESLs, ReVs, and AMCVs located on the TCEQ DSD webpage for more information. The ESLs and ReVs for 2-butoxyethanol have been designed to protect the general public from short-term and long-term adverse health and welfare effects. The general public includes children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with preexisting health conditions. If you would like to know more about the specific ESLs and ReVs developed, what the values are and what they are used for, please see the DSD.