

Non-PEC Assessments in Progress

Phthalates

Phthalates are the most common group of chemicals used as plasticisers (plastic softeners) worldwide. They are employed in a diverse range of industrial and domestic applications and can be present in soft plastics at concentrations up to 35-45%. Consumer products such as soft plastic articles and cosmetics are potentially sources of repeated and long-term exposure to phthalates through migration and leaching.

There are concerns regarding potential adverse health effects due to exposure to phthalates, particularly reproductive and developmental health effects.

In response to these concerns, 9 phthalate chemicals (Table 1) were declared Priority Existing Chemicals (PECs) on 7 March 2006, for full public health risk assessments for the following specific consumer applications:

- Children's toys;
- Childcare articles; and
- Cosmetics.

The declaration notice and list of applicants can be found at www.nicnas.gov.au/Industry/Existing_Chemicals/PEC_Declarations.asp

As a result of general data searches and a call for information from industry in 2004, a number of other phthalate chemicals were identified in use in Australia in applications additional to those above for which PEC risk assessments are being conducted. Accordingly, hazard (toxicity) assessments are being conducted on an additional 16 common phthalates (below).

Phthalate Hazard Assessments

Common Abbreviation	Common Name	CAS #
DAP	Diallyl phthalate	131-17-9
DCHP	Dicyclohexyl phthalate	84-61-7
DIBP	Diisobutyl phthalate	84-69-5
Di-C6-10-phthalate	Di-C6-10-phthalate	68515-51-5
Di-C7-9-phthalate	Di-C7-9-phthalate	68515-41-3
Di-C9-11-phthalate	Di-C9-11-phthalate	68515-43-5
DIHepP	Diisoheptyl phthalate	41451-28-9 71888-89-6

DIHP	Diisohexyl phthalate	68515-50-4 71850-09-4
DIOP	Diisooctyl phthalate	27554-26-3
DTDP	Ditridecyl phthalate	119-06-2
DIUP	Diisoundecyl phthalate	85507-79-5
DMT	Dimethyl terephthalate	120-61-6
DnHP	Di-n-hexyl phthalate	84-75-3
DNP	Dinonyl phthalate	84-76-4
DTDP	Diisotridecyl phthalate	27253-26-5 68515-47-9
DUP	Diundecyl phthalate	3648-20-2

In addition to individual hazard assessments, the hazard profiles for all 25 phthalates (including the 9 PECs) will be published as a hazard compendium providing a comparative analysis of key toxicity endpoints.