


# *para*-Dichlorobenzene



***para*-Dichlorobenzene (*p*-DCB) is mainly used as a deodoriser in domestic and public toilet facilities. It is also used as a domestic air freshener. It has some uses in the pharmaceutical industries.**

NICNAS assessed *p*-DCB in December 2000. These are the main findings of that assessment.

*p*-DCB is not very toxic. However, health effects can occur from breathing a large amount of vapours or swallowing it.

Inhaling a lot of *p*-DCB vapour can cause coughing, chest pains, difficulty breathing, drowsiness, nausea, poor co-ordination, unconsciousness, and anaemia.

*p*-DCB dust and its vapour may cause eye irritation, so contact with the eye should be avoided and it should only be used in a well-ventilated space.

It may also irritate the respiratory tract and inhaling the vapour should be avoided, especially in poorly ventilated areas.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The main risk from *p*-DCB is from breathing it in during loading or melting and mixing it for sale. Public toilet facilities may also be a source of exposure to *p*-DCB vapour for cleaners and workers in entertainment venues.

- Good ventilation should be provided in the workplace.
- Information on *p*-DCB vapour levels in the workplace is inadequate. Monitoring of air levels should
- be conducted at workplaces where *p*-DCB is handled in bulk quantities.
- Containers used for storing and collecting waste *p*-DCB should be covered with lids.
- *p*-DCB dust should be regularly removed from all surfaces in the workplace to prevent unnecessary inhalation.

The current national exposure standards are an average 8 hour exposure limit of 75 ppm TWA and a short-term exposure limit of 110 ppm STEL. However, these limits need to be reviewed so exposure should be kept below these limits.

*p*-Dichlorobenzene is classed as a Hazardous Substance. It is classified Class 9 under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code, UN number 3077 and listed in Poisons Schedule Number 5.

The most comprehensive source of information is the detailed assessment of *para*-Dichlorobenzene published by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessments Scheme (NICNAS). This is available free of charge by downloading from the publication section of the NICNAS website at [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au) or by calling 1800 638 528. More information on the use of industrial chemicals can be found at the NICNAS website.

