


# *ortho*-Dichlorobenzene



***ortho*-Dichlorobenzene (*o*-DCB) is mainly used as a paint remover, as a degreaser (for grease traps, drains and car parts) and as a decarboniser in the car and marine industries. It has some uses in agricultural and veterinary industries.**

NICNAS assessed *o*-DCB in February 2001. These are the main findings of that assessment.

*o*-DCB is not very toxic. However, health effects can occur from breathing its vapours, skin contact or swallowing it.

Contact with *o*-DCB can cause skin and eye irritation.

Inhaling *o*-DCB vapour can cause coughing, difficulty breathing, and irritation to the respiratory tract, eye irritation, headache, dizziness and lack of co-ordination.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The main risk from *o*-DCB is from breathing it in. Standard safety precautions should be observed.

- Good ventilation should be provided in the workplace.
- Information on *o*-DCB should be provided in the workplace.
- Containers used for storing *o*-DCB should be disposed of as hazardous waste.
- *o*-DCB should be disposed of by licenced liquid waste contractors.

The current national exposure standards are an eight-hour time-weighted average of 25 ppm and short-term exposure limit of 50 ppm. However, the report recommends that these limits need to be reviewed so exposure should be kept below this.

Mixtures containing more than 20% *o*-Dichlorobenzene are classed as Hazardous Substances. It is classified Class 6.1 (toxic) under the Australian Dangerous Goods Code with UN number 1591 and Hazchem code 2Z. It is listed in Poisons Schedule Number 6.

More information on *o*-DCB can be found in the Material Safety Data Sheet available from the supplier. A comprehensive source of information is the detailed assessment of *ortho*-Dichlorobenzene published by the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). This is available free of charge on the NICNAS website or by calling 1800 638 528. More information on the use of industrial chemicals can be found at the NICNAS website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

