



HSIA

halogenated
solvents
industry
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NEWS RELEASE

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HSIA Files Petition with the Environmental Protection Agency to Add n-Propyl Bromide (nPB) to the List Of Hazardous Air Pollutants

Arlington, VA (October 28, 2010) – The Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance (HSIA) today filed a petition with the EPA to list nPB, a brominated hydrocarbon, as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act. Such a listing would result in regulation of significant sources of nPB emissions.

In the early to mid-1990's, nPB was used in well controlled processes as an intermediate in the production of chemicals. Thereafter, it was introduced into emissive applications such as aerosols, adhesives, vapor degreasing operations and critical cleaning of electronics and metals. n. As a result of these growing emissive uses, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration nominated nPB for further study in the National Toxicology Program as it has the potential for widespread occupational and environmental exposure.

The HSIA petition, a copy of which can be found on our website, addresses uses of and exposures to nPB as well as descriptions of scientific studies that demonstrate that emissions of nPB are known to cause, or may reasonably be anticipated to cause, adverse effects to human health, the statutory criteria. The National Toxicology Program recently submitted for peer review a draft report of two-year carcinogenesis bioassays that concluded there was clear evidence of carcinogenicity in female rats and mice exposed to nPB. Evidence shows that certain workplace exposures to nPB pose a significant risk of material health impairment in the form of severe neurotoxicity including lower limb paralysis. Observations in one group of workers suggested the signs of neurotoxicity are detectable at levels of 1-5 parts per million (average over eight hours) in air. nPB has been shown to adversely affect reproduction in male and female rats.

n-Propyl bromide is being marketed as an “unregulated” alternative to chlorinated solvents in a variety of applications. Observations of the toxic effects of nPB in animals and workers exposed to it demonstrate that exposed populations, whether workers or the general population, may face serious health effects which could include neurological effects, cancer and reproductive effects.

For these reasons, HSIA is asking the Environmental Protection Agency to list nPB as a hazardous air pollutant under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act.

