



# HSIA

halogenated  
solvents  
industry  
alliance, inc.

## NEWS RELEASE

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## HSIA WELCOMES THE RELEASE OF THE EPA IRIS ASSESSMENT OF PERCHLOROETHYLENE

Arlington, VA (February 10, 2012) – The Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, Inc. (HSIA) welcomes the completion of the IRIS process on the solvent perchloroethylene, or perc. We are pleased that EPA has completed the review and removed some of the uncertainties related to evaluating human health exposures to the solvent, and also appreciate EPA’s reassurance that wearing clothes dry cleaned with perchloroethylene is not a human health concern.

“EPA took into account the strong comments it received from the National Research Council during its 2008 review of the document. However, the Agency’s report reveals inconsistencies with the approach used to assess the cancer risks from trichloroethylene,” said John Bell, HSIA Director of Scientific Programs. He also notes that “while EPA has indicated it is considering a new Maximum Contaminant Level as low as 0.05 parts per billion (ppb), this IRIS review establishes a negligible human health risk at 20 ppb or higher.”

Perchloroethylene has been comprehensively regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Clean Air Act for over 20 years. These regulations adequately restrict its use and emissions and require proper handling and disposal. HSIA’s member companies manufacture and market perchloroethylene in compliance with all federal and state regulations.

Perchloroethylene is the solvent of choice for dry cleaning, textile processing, as a chemical intermediate and for vapor degreasing in some metal cleaning operations. It is one of the most studied industrial chemicals and has been used safely by industry for over 50 years. Perchloroethylene is fully recyclable and represents no harm to the environment or risks to human health when used and handled appropriately.