

Canada Released Screening Assessments for Seven Substances

In August, the Canadian government published screening assessments for the Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanates and Methylenediphenyl Diamines (MDI/MDA) Substance Grouping. The MDI/MDA Substance Grouping includes 7 substances as below:

CAS RN	Domestic Substances List name	Acronym
101-77-9	Benzenamine, 4,4'-methylenebis-	4,4'-MDA
25214-70-4	Formaldehyde, polymer with benzenamine	pMDA
101-68-8	Benzene, 1,1'-methylenebis[4-isocyanato-	4,4'-MDI
2536-05-2	Benzene, 1,1'-methylenebis[2-isocyanato-	2,2'-MDI
5873-54-1	Benzene, 1-isocyanato-2-[(4-isocyanatophenyl)methyl]-	2,4'-MDI
26447-40-5	Benzene, 1,1'-methylenebis[isocyanato	Mixed MDI
9016-87-9	Isocyanic acid, polymethylenepolyphenylene ester	pMDI

The MDI/MDA substances are widely used in many consumer products. Methylenediphenyl diamines (MDA) are used mainly as intermediates in manufacturing processes. 4,4'-MDA is known to be used in the production of azo-dyes (Cartasol Yellow) which may be used in inks, paper, leather and other textile products. Methylenediphenyl Diisocyanates (MDI) is used in the production of polyurethanes, flexible and rigid foams, paints and coatings, adhesives, sealants, casting material and spandex fibres.

According to the published assessment, MDI/MDA substances meet the criteria under section 64 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) as they are entering the environment in a quantity or concentration or under condition that:

- Have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity;
- Constitute or may constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends; or
- Constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health.

The assessments concluded that:

- 4,4'-MDA (CAS RN 101-77-9) and pMDA (CAS RN 25214-70-4) do not meet any of the criteria set out in section 64 of CEPA.
- The remaining five MDI substances meet one or more of the criteria set out in section 64 of the CEPA.
- However, these five MDI substances do not meet the persistence or bioaccumulation criteria as set out in the Persistence and Bioaccumulation Regulations of CEPA 1999.

Currently, the Minister of the Environment is seeking public comments on this publication. Comments must be received by October 14, 2014.

Link

Environment Canada, August, 2014

http://ec.gc.ca/ese-ees/14B737B2-767E-4A81-B57B-D167714AE916/DSAR_Groupings_MDI%20%26%20MDA_EN.pdf

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