

VINYL ACETATE COUNCIL

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CANADA CONCLUDES VINYL ACETATE NOT “CEPA TOXIC”

(Released: February 3, 2009)

Canada completed its Screening Assessment for vinyl acetate monomer (CAS No. 108-05-4), which was undertaken as part of Canada’s Chemical Management Plan. The final assessment, released on January 31, 2009, concluded that vinyl acetate monomer (VAM) does not meet any of the criteria set out in section 64 of CEPA - and as such, there was no basis to declare VAM as “Toxic” under the Canadian Environment Protection Act (CEPA).

Canada’s decision to reverse its earlier proposal (April 2008) was based largely on the relatively comprehensive review of the health effects data on VAM and the extensive amount of new data generated by the vinyl acetate industry on exposure to consumer products. As part of the assessment, Canada accepted the “existence of a practical threshold for carcinogenicity of vinyl acetate,” which is consistent with the views established last year by the European Union (EU). The EU concluded that based on the available evidence there was no need to regulate consumer products produced from VAM based polymers.

The Vinyl Acetate Council¹ (VAC), working jointly with the Emulsion Polymers Council (EPC) and the Canadian VAM Workgroup, provided extensive information to Canada for its consideration. Canada’s conclusions support the industry’s view that VAM “is not entering the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health.” Nonetheless, the vinyl acetate industry remains committed to maintaining its active product stewardship program, which is directed at better understanding the potential health effects and exposures to VAM.

For additional information, contact the Vinyl Acetate Council (www.vinylacetate.org) or any of the VAM producers (contact information available from VAC):

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¹ Members of the VAC include Celanese Limited, The Dow Chemical Company, E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company, LyondellBasell Industries, ExxonMobil Chemical, and Wacker Chemie AG.