elf atochem

Elf Atochem North America, Inc.
2000 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-3222
Tel.: 215.419.7000

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A

Document Control Office (7407)
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Subject: TSCA Section 8(e) Submission

Dear Sir/Madam:

Elf Atochem North America Inc. has received preliminary results of a micronucleus study in mice and is submitting the results of this study to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 8(e). This study provides information on methyl mercaptan (CAS No. 74-93-1) and does not involve effects in humans. The title of the study report is Bone Marrow Erythrocyte Micronucleus Assay in Swiss-Webster Mice Following Acute Nose-Only Inhalation Exposure to Methyl Mercaptan.

Nothing in this letter is considered confidential business information of Elf Atochem.

In this study, mice were exposed to methyl mercaptan for six hours by nose-only inhalation at 114, 258 or 512 ppm, and were sacrificed at 24, 48 and 72 hours after exposure for evaluation of micronucleus formation in the bone marrow. Although a statistically significant increase in micronucleated erythrocytes was observed in male mice 24 hours after exposure to 512 ppm, the biological significance of this increase is considered equivocal since the increase was slight, the control group had a micronucleus frequency lower than the historical control mean at the laboratory, and the response was observed at a level that was lethal.

In conclusion, although the increases in micronucleus frequency observed were weak, methyl mercaptan met the criteria established in the protocol for a positive response in the mouse bone marrow erythrocyte micronucleus assay.

Results from the study report will be incorporated into the Elf Atochem Material Safety Data Sheet for methyl mercaptan.

A copy of the full report will be forwarded to the Agency when it is received.

Further questions regarding this submission may be directed to me at (215) 419-5890.

Sincerely,

DRandall

Debra Randall, DABT
Product Safety Manager