

BASF Corporation

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July 31, 1996

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8EHQ-96-13705

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Attention: (8e) Coordinator
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, SW
Washington, DC 20460

Contains No CBI

8E-0896-13705

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Subject: Notice in Accordance with TSCA Section 8(e) - Reference EPA Document Control Number 8EHQ-0288-0720, Polybrominated Dibenzofurans and Polybrominated Dibenzodioxins.

On September 30, 1991, BASF Corporation submitted the final report for a morbidity study of workers handling resins containing decabromodiphenyl ether (CAS No. 1163-19-5), conducted by BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Ludwigshafen, Germany.

BASF Corporation is now submitting a statement released by the Corporate Medical Director of BASF Aktiengesellschaft, Ludwigshafen, Germany, regarding additional clinical observations among exposed employees. This population is of particular interest because biomonitoring results showed some members of the study group to have been exposed to brominated dioxins and furans based on measurement of these compounds in blood lipid samples.

The individual with the highest reported 2,3,7,8-tetrabromodibenzo-p-dioxin blood lipid concentration was subsequently diagnosed with esophageal cancer and has recently died at age 58. A second individual not belonging to the original study group, but also potentially exposed to brominated dioxins and furans during laboratory work, developed duodenal cancer and died at age 48. A third individual from the original study group of 42 men has been diagnosed with tubular adenomas of the rectum.

No two of the cancers were of the same anatomical site. Because of the small numbers of cases and individuals, it has not been possible to determine whether or not these occurrences are related to common work exposures.

Please note that this information is not being submitted under any claims of confidentiality. All persons handling or testing this chemical will be notified via an updated Material Safety Data Sheet. Any reports or additional information that we receive will be forwarded to the Agency.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (313) 246-6207.

Very Truly Yours,

BASF Corporation

Edward J. Kerfoot, Ph.D.
Director, Toxicology and Product Regulations



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DOA - H 306
Prof. Zober
Tel. 0621/60-43266
Fax 0621/60-93690

STATEMENT

11 July 1996

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**Brominated Bisphenylethers (decabromodiphenylether)
Scientific papers from the BASF Medical Department:
Morbidity study of extruder personnel with potential exposure
to brominated dioxins and furans
I Results of blood monitoring and immunological tests
(British Journal of Industrial Medicine 1992; 49:532-544)
II Results of clinical laboratory studies
(accepted for publication in Occupational and Environmental Medicine, London)**

In the a.m. papers, we report about a group of BASF employees exposed to brominated furans and dioxins from decabromodiphenylether. In both studies no notable health effects could be shown as per 1991.

We are continuing, however, to monitor this small group of employees ("original cohort"). In the meantime, the highest exposed person died from cancer at the age of 58. This case was compensated by the Berufsgenossenschaft (Employment Accident Insurance Fund) as an occupational disease. A second person also exposed to brominated dioxins and furans during lab work (not member of the original cohort) also died from cancer at the age of 49 and was compensated, too. Both cancers are rare cancers from the gastro-intestinal tract. A third person at the age of 48 from the original cohort exposed to brominated furans and dioxins from decabromodiphenylethers suffers from tubular adenomas of the rectum, a facultative praecancerous lesion.

We are planning to report these findings as a letter to the editor to *OEM*, London.



**Prof. A. Zober MD PhD
Corporate Medical Director**

Telefon (0621) 60-0 (Vermittlung)
Telefax (0621) 60-4 25 25 (Zentrale)
Telex 49 469-0 bas d (Vermittlung)
Teletex 82157 = BASF (Vermittlung)
Telegramme: BASF Ludwigshafenrhain

Bankverbindung:
Landeszentralbank 67006 Ludwigshafen,
Girokonto 54507300 (BLZ 64500000)
Sitz der Gesellschaft:
67056 Ludwigshafen, Deutschland
Registergericht: Amtsgericht Ludwigshafen,
Eintragungsnummer: HRB 3000

Aufsichtsratsvorsitzender: Hans Albert
Vorstand: Jürgen Strube, Vorsitzender;
Hanns-Helge Stechl, stellv. Vorsitzender;
Albrecht Eckell; Max Dietrich Key;
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