

February 7, 2003

### **Dibutyl Phthalate, Diethyl Phthalate, and Dimethyl Phthalate Re-review Summary**

On November 19, 2002 the CIR Expert Panel announced its decision to not reopen the safety assessment of the Dibutyl Phthalate group of ingredients. The Panel asked that the summary of the newly available data and a discussion of the issues be prepared for their review. That was done and the summary was approved on February 7, 2003. Interested persons are invited to comment on or before April 11, 2003.

## Dibutyl Phthalate, Diethyl Phthalate, and Dimethyl Phthalate

A safety assessment of Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP), Diethyl Phthalate (DEP), and Dimethyl Phthalate (DMP) was published in 1985 with the conclusion that these ingredients "are safe for topical application in the present practices of use and concentrations in cosmetics" (Elder, 1985). Since then many additional studies have appeared in the scientific literature. These studies, along with the updated information in Tables 1 - 3 regarding uses and use concentrations, were considered by the CIR Expert Panel. Based on its consideration of the data discussed below, the Panel decided not to reopen this safety assessment.

DBP, DEP, and DMP are phthalate diesters that are used in cosmetics as plasticizers, solvents and fragrance ingredients in a wide variety of cosmetic product types. DEP is also used as a denaturant. DBP is found primarily in nail care products (at concentrations up to 15 %) and in some hair care formulations (up to 0.1 %). DEP is found in certain bath preparations, fragrance products, deodorants, lotions, and other skin care products. The highest reported concentration of use of DEP is 11 % in perfumes. DMP is an ingredient in some hair care products, including aerosol fixatives. The reported maximum concentration of use of DMP in cosmetics is 2 % in aerosol hair sprays. Tables 1 - 3 provide the frequency and concentration of use as a function of product type.

Recent studies document that DBP, DEP, and DMP all absorb readily through the skin and through the GI tract. Once absorbed, most short-chain phthalate diesters are hydrolyzed to the corresponding monoester and alcohol. The phthalates and their metabolites distribute to most tissues, and cross the placenta, but they do not accumulate in any specific tissue type. Phthalates are quickly eliminated in the urine, usually as the corresponding monoester or its glucuronide conjugate. However, humans and primates metabolize longer-chain diester phthalates (e.g., DEHP) into the glucuronide-conjugated monoester forms to a much larger extent than do rats. Also, rats excrete three to four times more free unconjugated MBP than do hamsters given similar doses of DBP or MBP, possibly due to greater testicular  $\beta$ -glucuronidase activity in rats than in hamsters. Phthalates undergo some enterohepatic cycling, and some phthalate is eliminated in the feces.

New data on acute and short-term toxicity were consistent with previously available data.

In a National Toxicology Program (NTP) study, DBP, DEP, and DMP were not found to be dermal irritants or sensitizers, confirming previous data using human and animal subjects.

While previous data had identified that orally administered (in feed or by gavage) DBP and its metabolite MBP have reproductive and developmental effects in rodents, with impaired male development being the most sensitive effect, newly available data provided additional demonstration of such effects.

When pregnant rats and mice were exposed to 1.0 % DBP in powdered feed throughout gestation, the pregnancy outcome showed reductions in fertility, number of pups per litter, number of live pups, and body weights of pups. Adult male rats exposed to 1.0 % DBP showed signs of liver and kidney toxicity and reduced weights of the prostate, testes, and seminal vesicles. Pregnant rats exposed to 2 % DBP in feed throughout pregnancy had a higher incidence of preimplantation loss and resorptions, and no male pups were born alive. Exposure to 1 or 2 % DBP in feed only during the latter half of gestation did not show the preimplantation loss and resorption rate seen in rats exposed throughout pregnancy. However, the increased survivability of these fetuses allowed the morphological defects of developing fetuses to be observed. These defects included reduced body weights in both sexes at 2 % DBP, reduced anogenital distance and undescended testes in male fetuses at 1 and 2 % DBP, and increased incidence of cleft palate and fused sternbrae. Adverse fetal effects were not seen in this study at a 0.5 % DBP feed group, or 331 mg/kg/day based on average food consumption.

Oral intubation (gavage) of DBP in rats during gestation produced similar effects to those seen in the feeding studies described above. Pregnant rats given oral doses of approximately 0.63 to 0.75 g/kg/day and higher on certain gestation days produced litters with higher incidences of fetal toxicity and malformations. Exposure to DBP on gestation days 7 through 9 or on days 13 through 15 results in increased incidence of skeletal malformations such as cleft palate, fused sternbrae, and vertebral anomalies, as well as dilatation of the renal pelvis and undescended testes. However, exposure to DBP on gestation days 10 through 12 did

not produce these effects, suggesting that DBP teratogenicity may be age-dependent. Prenatal exposure to MBP appears to produce fetotoxicity and teratogenicity similar to DBP, following the same patterns of age-dependent sensitivity and dose efficacy. This supports the proposal that it is the monoester metabolite that produces the developmental toxicity of DBP and other phthalates.

DEP fed to mice at concentrations up to 2.5 % (calculated to be 3.64 g/kg/day) in a continuous breeding protocol produced no effects of DEP on fertility or pregnancy outcome in the F<sub>0</sub> generation. F<sub>1</sub> male mice of the 2.5 % DEP group had enlarged prostates and reduced sperm counts, but sperm motility and morphology were not affected. The F<sub>2</sub> generation showed no treatment-related differences between DEP and control groups. Pregnant rats fed up to 5.0 % DEP mixed in feed on gestation days 6 through 15 produced no treatment-related alterations in fetal viability or development.

Repeated dermal application of 2 ml/kg up to 50 % DEP to pregnant rabbits on gestation days 6 through 18 did not produce maternal or fetal toxicity or affect fetal development.

DMP was not fetotoxic or teratogenic when administered dermally (in rats) or orally (in rats and mice) during gestation.

Exposure to some phthalates has been shown to cause impairments of normal male development in rodents. The documented male-specific effects of phthalates include malformations of the epididymis and vas deferens, undescended testes, hypospadias, retention of thoracic nipples, and reduced anogenital distance. DEP and DMP did not cause the dramatic effects on male development seen with longer-chain dialkyl phthalates. Many studies have reviewed the mechanisms of the male-targeted toxicity of phthalates. DBP, DEP, and DMP have weak or no binding affinity for estrogen receptor and do not affect estrogen-regulated developmental endpoints. An anti-androgenic mechanism has been proposed, but many studies show that these phthalates do not bind with androgen receptors, either. However, phthalate esters inhibit the synthesis of testosterone, which is an important hormone in normal development in males. DBP has also been shown to inhibit the action of Müllerian Inhibiting Substance produced by Sertoli cells.

DBP, DEP, and DMP previously had been screened for mutagenicity in the Ames bacterial reverse mutation assay with no mutagenic potential found. Additional data were available reporting that DBP caused an increase in the number of TA100 revertants in the absence but not in the presence of S9 rat liver fraction. DEP caused increases in the numbers of TA100 and TA1535 revertants, but this effect was also eliminated by the presence of S9. DMP caused an increase in the number of TA1535 revertants, but S9 prevented the effect. Overall, DBP, DEP, and DMP continue to have little genotoxic potential. One study on males of subfertile couples examined the relationship between environmental exposures to phthalates and DNA damage in human sperm using the neutral comet assay which is said to measure at least two aspects of DNA integrity. Neither the monobutyl form of DBP nor DMP had a significant association with comet assay parameters, and a significant association with the monobutyl form of DEP was seen only with one measure of DNA integrity.

Phthalates are a matter of concern for those responsible for public health and have been (and continue to be) reviewed by many government and international organizations. Phthalates are ubiquitous in the modern environment. The monoester metabolites of phthalates have been detected in the urine of an adult reference population and in the urine of young children in a small pilot study. Environmental exposure to phthalates and other endocrine disruptors have been proposed to be linked to an increased incidence of hypospadias in humans. The developmental effects of phthalates seen in rodents raise questions about the potential for human health risks. However, these effects seen in rodents are at much higher exposure levels than humans are likely to encounter, and they are subject to the species differences in the metabolism of phthalate diesters. The estimated median exposure levels of DEP and DBP are 57 µg/kg/day and 7 µg/kg/day, respectively, while the U.S. EPA reference doses (RfD) for DEP and DBP are 800 µg/kg/day and 100 µg/kg/day, respectively. Thus, the human exposure is well below the safety limits set by the U.S. EPA. Even the median exposure levels of the highest-exposed group (women aged 20 to 40 years) are well below the RfD's. Exposure levels were not available for DMP.

Scientific committees with the governments of the United States and the European Union have evaluated the human risks of DBP and DEP and expressed minimal to no concern over consumer exposure to these

compounds ( National Toxicology Program's Center for the Evaluation of Risks to Human Reproduction, 2000; Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research and National Institute of Public health and the Environment, 200; Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and Non-Food Products, 2002).

As in the original safety assessment of these phthalate diesters in 1984, the primary safety issue regarding phthalate esters in this re-review is anti-androgenic activity and the potential effects on male development. The CIR Expert Panel noted that the free monoester metabolite appears to be the active agent in phthalate diester toxicity. Of the three compounds reviewed in this safety assessment, Dibutyl Phthalate raised the most concern.

The Panel reviewed the numerous studies that describe the developmental toxicity of DBP in rodents. The Panel noted that the no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) of DBP in a gavage study was 50 mg/kg/day (Mylchreest et al., 2000). However, a feeding study reported a NOAEL of 331 mg/kg/day (Ema et al., 1998). Overall, the Panel felt that feeding studies better represent of the type of exposure that humans would receive from cosmetics than do gavage studies, but agreed that a worst-case NOAEL of 50 mg/kg/day should be considered.

The Panel considered a Margin of Safety (MOS) approach to assess the risk of DBP exposure to human users of cosmetics based on calculated exposures and the animal developmental toxicity data. Exposure calculations were based on ingredient concentration of use in cosmetic products (CTFA, 2001a, b, c; Houlihan et al., 2002), extent of cosmetic use survey data (Environ Corporation, 1985; CTFA, 2002b), and dermal (Mint et al., 1994) and subungual penetration data (Jackson Research Association, 2002). A conservative approach to penetration was used; i.e., an estimate of approximately 5 % absorption of DEP in human skin was considered to be a conservative estimate of DBP absorption, because data suggest that DEP is more readily absorbed in rat skin than DBP (Scott et al., 1987). The Panel used an estimated consumer body weight of 60 kg.

The expected exposure was calculated as follows:

#### Nail basecoat or polish

- 280 mg/application to 10 fingernails (Environ Corporation, 1985)
- 15 % maximum DBP in nail basecoats and polish (CTFA, 2001a, b, c; Houlihan et al., 2002)
- 8.5 % penetration through nail in 14 days (Jackson Research Association, 2002)

$$280 \text{ mg/day} \times 15\% \times 8.5\% / 14 \text{ days} = 0.255 \text{ mg/day} / 60 \text{ kg} = 4.25 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}$$
$$4.5 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day} \times 2 \text{ (for fingers and toes)} = \underline{8.5 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}}$$

#### Hair Spray

- 5 g/day hair spray use (CTFA, 2002)
- 160  $\mu\text{g/g}$  DBP in hair spray (Houlihan et al., 2002)
- 20% skin contact, from CTFA maximum worst case estimates
- 5% skin absorption (Mint et al., 1994)

$$5 \text{ g/day} \times 160 \text{ } \mu\text{g/g} \times 20\% \times 5\% = 8 \text{ } \mu\text{g/day} / 60 \text{ kg} = \underline{0.14 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}}$$

#### Deodorant

- 0.52 g/day deodorant use (Environ Corporation, 1984)
- 200  $\mu\text{g/g}$  DBP in deodorant (Houlihan et al., 2002)
- 5 % skin absorption (Mint et al., 1994)

$$0.52 \text{ g/day} \times 200 \text{ } \mu\text{g/g} \times 5\% = 5.2 \text{ } \mu\text{g/day} / 60 \text{ kg} = \underline{0.09 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}}$$

#### Perfume

- 0.53 g/day perfume use (CTFA, 2002)
- 890  $\mu\text{g/g}$  DBP in perfume (Houlihan et al., 2002)
- 5% skin absorption (Mint et al., 1994)

$$0.53 \text{ g/day} \times 890 \text{ } \mu\text{g/g} \times 5\% = 24 \text{ } \mu\text{g/day} / 60 \text{ kg} = \underline{0.4 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}}$$

#### Total Exposure

$$8.5 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day} + 0.14 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day} + 0.09 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day} + 0.4 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day} = \underline{9.13 \text{ } \mu\text{g/kg/day}}$$

The calculated estimated exposure level of DBP from the concurrent use of multiple cosmetic products came to 9.13 µg/kg/day. This value is within the reported range of total human exposure to DBP from all sources in women, 32 µg/kg/day (upper 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for women of reproductive age) to 6.5 µg/kg/day (upper 95<sup>th</sup> percentile for rest of group). Therefore, the Panel accepted 9.13 µg/kg/day as a not unreasonable approximation of DBP exposure from cosmetic products.

The Panel calculated the MOS of DBP by dividing the NOAEL of 331 mg/kg/day (from a feeding study) by the expected exposure 9.13 µg/kg/day, yielding an MOS of 36,254. If the more conservative NOAEL of 50 mg/kg/day (from a gavage study) is used, the MOS is 5,476. The Panel also noted that both NOAEL figures were obtained from rat studies, and detoxication metabolism of DBP is faster in humans than in rats.

The Panel acknowledged the use of DBP, DEP, and DMP in hair sprays. The effects of inhaled aerosols depend on the specific chemical species, the concentration, the duration of exposure, and site of deposition (Jensen and O'Brien, 1993) within the respiratory system. Particle size is the most important factor affecting the location of deposition. The mean aerodynamic diameter of pump hair spray particles is approximately 80 µm, and the diameter of anhydrous hair spray particles is 60-80 µm. Typically less than 1% are below 10 µm which is the upper limit for respirable particles (Bowen, 1999). Based on the particle size, DBP, DEP, and DMP would not be respirable in formulation. Therefore, exposure of the lung by inhalation was not considered likely.

Based on the available information included in this report, the CIR Expert Panel concluded that Dibutyl Phthalate, Dimethyl Phthalate, and Diethyl Phthalate are safe for use in cosmetic products in the present practices of use and concentrations, and therefore, the safety assessment of these compounds was not reopened.

Table 1. Current and historical concentration of use data for Dibutyl Phthalate

Product Category	1981 Data		2001 Data	
	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 1981)	Concentration range in cosmetic products (FDA, 1981)	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 2001)	Current Concentration of Use (CTFA, 2001a; 2001b; 2001c)
Other manicuring preparations	14	≤25 %	25	5 - 7 % 6 % <sup>1</sup>
Nail polish and enamel removers	3	0.1 - 25 %	-	2 %
Nail creams and lotions	-	-	2	5 %
Nail extenders	-	-	-	1 % 1 % <sup>1</sup>
Nail polish and enamel	522	≤25 %	88	0.5 - 15 % 15 % <sup>1</sup>
Basecoats and undercoats (manicuring preparations)	36	>1 - 10 %	32	1 - 6 % 15 % <sup>1</sup>
Other makeup preparations	1	>0.1 - 1 %	-	0.5 %
Other hair preparations (noncoloring)	3	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Other hair coloring preparations	3	>0.1 - 1 %	-	0.1 %
Aftershave lotions	3	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Hair bleaches	-	-	-	0.1 %
Shampoos (noncoloring)	-	-	-	0.007 %
Fragrance	-	-	-	38 - 890 ppm <sup>2</sup>
Deodorant	-	-	-	140 - 200 ppm <sup>2</sup>
Hair Spray	-	-	-	55 - 160 ppm <sup>2</sup>
Other personal cleanliness products	5	>1 - 5 %	3	-
<b>Total frequency of use for DBP</b>	<b>590</b>		<b>150</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Maximum Concentrations reported by Nail Manufacturers Council (NMC, 2001).

<sup>2</sup> Concentrations found in off-the-shelf products (Houlihan et al. 2002).

Table 2. Current and historical concentration of use data for Diethyl Phthalate

Product Category	1981 Data		2001 Data	
	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 1981)	Concentration range in cosmetic products (FDA, 1981)	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 2001)	Current Concentration of Use (CTFA, 2001a; 2001b; 2001c)
Bath oils, tablets, and salts	3	≤5 %	1	-
Other bath preparations	2	≤0.1 %	2	-
Baby shampoos	-	-	-	0.03 %
Baby lotions, oils, powders, and creams	-	-	-	0.00003 %
Other baby products	-	-	-	0.05 %
Bubble baths	-	-	-	0.06 %
Other bath preparations	-	-	-	0.008 - 0.09 %
Shampoos (noncoloring)	-	-	-	0.0008 - 0.2 %
Bath soaps and detergents	1	>0.1 - 1 %	-	2 %
Hair conditioners	-	-	-	0.1 - 0.2 %
Hair sprays (aerosol fixatives)	5	>0.1 - 5 %	-	0.4 % 17 - 1500 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Hair gels	-	-	-	14 - 220 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Hair mousse	-	-	-	38 - 75 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Wave sets	1	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Face powders	-	-	-	0.4 %
Eye shadow	1	≤0.1 %	-	-
Eyebrow pencil	-	-	-	0.007 %
Mascara	-	-	-	0.007 - 0.07 %
Other eye makeup preparations	-	-	-	0.07 %
Foundations	-	-	-	0.3 %
Lipstick	-	-	-	0.00005 %
Other makeup preparations	-	-	-	0.0003 %
Nail polish and enamel remover	1	>1 - 5 %	-	-
Nail polish and enamel	-	-	-	0.1 %
Other manicuring preparations	-	-	-	0.2 %
Colognes and toilet waters	19	≤5 %	24	0.2 - 2 %
Perfumes	23	≤50 %	7	1 -11 %
Powders	1	>0.1 - 1 %	5	-
Sachets	3	>0.01 - 5 %	2	-
Other fragrance preparations	2	>0.1 - 50 %	11	0.01 - 1 % 67 - 28,000 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Tonic, dressings, and other hair grooming aids	-	-	1	-
Deodorants	-	-	4	0.3 - 1 % 20 - 3300 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Feminine hygiene deodorants	-	-	-	0.4 %
Other personal cleanliness products	-	-	-	1 %
Aftershave lotion	3	>0.1 - 1 %	4	0.5 - 2 %

Table 2 *continued*. Current and historical concentration of use data for Diethyl Phthalate

Product Category	1981 Data		2001 Data	
	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 1981)	Concentration range in cosmetic products (FDA, 1981)	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 2001)	Current Concentration of Use (CTFA, 2001a; 2001b; 2001c)
Shaving cream (aerosol, brushless, and lather)	-	-	-	0.001 %
Other shaving preparation products	-	-	-	1 %
Skin cleansing (cold creams, cleansing, lotions, liquids and pads)	-	-	-	0.0002 %
Face and neck creams, lotions, powders, and sprays (excluding shaving preparations)	1	≤0.1 %	-	0.3 %
Body and hand creams, lotions, powders, and sprays	-	-	2	0.008 - 0.5 % 26 - 190 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Foot powders and sprays	-	-	-	1 %
Night creams, lotions, powders, and sprays (excluding shaving preparations)	-	-	-	0.0004 %
Paste masks (mud packs)	-	-	1	0.1 %
Skin fresheners	-	-	4	0.1 - 0.9 %
Other skin care preparations	1	>0.1 - 1 %	5	0.00003 - 0.9 %
Total frequency of use for DEP	67		73	

<sup>1</sup> Concentrations found in off-the-shelf products (Houlihan et al. 2002).

Table 3. Current and historical concentration of use data for Dimethyl Phthalate

Product Category	1981 Data		2001 Data	
	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 1981)	Concentration range in cosmetic products (FDA, 1981)	No. of formulations containing ingredient (FDA, 2001)	Current Concentration of Use (CTFA, 2001a; 2001b; 2001c)
Hair sprays (aerosol fixatives)	-	-	8	0.00002 - 2 %
Other hair preparations	4	>0.1 - 1 %	3	-
Hair color sprays (aerosol)	-	-	1	-
Shampoos (noncoloring)	-	-	-	0.00002 %
Hair conditioners	2	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Tonics, dressings, and other hair grooming aids	2	>0.1 - 5 %	-	-
Hair rinses	1	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Wave sets	2	>0.1 - 1 %	-	-
Blushers (all types)	-	-	-	0.00008 %
Face powders	-	-	-	0.00008 %
Foundations	-	-	-	0.005 %
Bath soaps and detergents	-	-	-	0.004 %
Deodorants (underarm)	-	-	-	0.2% 33 ppm <sup>1</sup>
Aftershave lotions	-	-	-	0.2 %
Total frequency of use for DMP	11		12	

<sup>1</sup> Concentration found in off-the-shelf products (Houlihan et al. 2002).

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