

Re-classification MDI

June 2011

As a result of REACH, a re-classification has come into effect on MDI, the most common used hardener component of Polyurethane resins.

As a result of this, a warning needs to be included in MSDS sheets and on packaging labels about “possible carcinogenic effects”.

This re-classification is based on animal studies during which the animals were exposed long term to high concentrations of specially prepared aerosols including different types of MDI. A carcinogenic effect was only seen in long-term inhalation studies (2 years) and the concentration required to cause carcinogenic effects on the test animals was $6\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$, which is more than 100-times the MAK value.

Despite the fact that normal usage of our products (as a cast resin) does not cause any risks of MDI spray getting into the air, we are obliged to include this warning sentence on our packaging and MSDS sheets, as the labelling legislation does not allow distinctions between different applications and/or usage.

This is a result of the re-classification, MDI is no more harmful than it used to be in the past, it will simply be classified differently.

Below, we provide answers to questions which might arise as a result of this all.

1. *Are there really no exposure risks when using the ISP products?*

Provided the resin packs as supplied by ISP are being used for their purpose, there is absolutely no risk of exposure by inhalation. The resin & hardener are mixed in a closed twin pack environment, then poured as a cast resin into cable joints or duct sealing systems. During this process, the formation of spray or vapour of pure MDI which could get into the air is absolutely impossible.

On behalf of Filoform & ISP and as an ultimate test, the Dutch laboratory TAUW have recently carried out measurements during pouring activities at room temperature. There was no evidence of any MDI in the air and thus no health risks were found. **A full detailed test report is available upon request.**

2. *Despite this all, do I need to take any precautions when working with polyurethane resins?*

We always recommend wearing protective gloves when working with polyurethane resins to help prevent against direct skin contact with the resin.

- We also recommend the wearing of safety goggles to help avoid the risk of any resin getting into your eyes.
- Make sure the working area is well ventilated.
- Eating, drinking or smoking is not recommended whilst working with resins. Ensure you wash your hands before eating or drinking.

These are all the usual hygienic precautions which are recommended when working with many different substances and products.

3. *What should I do after skin contact with the resin?*

There is no reason for concern. You just wash your hands with plenty of water and a suitable soap. Filoform/ISP can supply an excellent soap from Ivrxo. This is a special hand cleaner with scrubbing agents.

4. *What will I notice as a result of the re-classification?*

In day-to-day practice, you will not notice anything as the products remain unchanged. Our MSDS sheets and product labelling will be revised to the new lay-out, in which the warning of "possible carcinogenic effects" will be included. This will take place within the next few months.

5. *Will there be any more changes in the future?*

Apart from this re-classification and in accordance with the GHS, there will be a change-over from the old labelling lay out to the new one with new warning sentences and different logos . Implementation of these amendments is planned in the very near future and will be mandatory for our products as from June 2015 onwards.

6. *Where can I find more information about MDI's?*

Additional information on MDI's can be found on www.isopa.org , the official website of the European organisation of manufacturers of diisocyanates and polyols, these being the main components of polyurethanes.

If you require any further information please contact our technical department.

ISP Industrial Support Products Ltd
Unit B1
Lambs Farm Business Park,
Swallowfield,
Reading
Berkshire
RG7 1PQ
Phone: 01189 886873

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