



## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Systems Containing Unreacted Diisocyanates**

### **What is the Priority Product?**

Any unreacted SPF Systems (including drums, kits, and cans of spray polyurethane foam materials) for insulation, filling, sealing, roofing, or other uses that contain select diisocyanates.

### **Why was this product chosen?**

Diisocyanates are known asthmagens, capable of causing asthma or triggering severe asthma attacks in sensitive populations. They are also skin and respiratory irritants, and sensitizers. Fatal exposures to diisocyanates have been documented.

### **Who is potentially at risk from using this product?**

- Workers
- Do-it-yourselfers
- Bystanders who may be exposed to vapors, aerosols, particulates, and uncured materials

### **What are the major routes of exposure?**

The major routes of exposure are inhalation of the vapor and aerosols and skin contact during handling and clean up.

### **What other names is the chemical known by?**

Diisocyanates, sometimes called isocyanates, are a class of low-molecular-weight aromatic and aliphatic compounds. The most common diisocyanates in SPF systems include methylene bisphenyl isocyanates (MDI) and hexamethylene diisocyanates (HDI). Some SPF systems on the market today are hybrid systems (i.e., SPF materials containing polyurethane-based coatings, sealants, or adhesives) and are likely to contain toluene diisocyanates (TDI).

### **What other government entity regulates this product?**

Products with diisocyanates can have adverse impacts throughout their life cycle: on people, sensitive populations and the environment. Various regulatory programs address one or more of these impacts – air or water impacts or occupational exposures, for example - but *not all of the impacts or exposures*. DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program addresses impacts from a product *throughout its entire life cycle*. For diisocyanates, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or Cal/OSHA requires engineering controls and has established air exposure limits.

### **What are the symptoms of exposure?**

The symptoms include persistent or recurring eye irritation, nasal congestion, dry or sore throat, cold-like symptoms, cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, or chest tightness.



**How do I reduce exposure risk if I continue to use the product?**

- Read product Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Follow manufacturer's recommended practices.
- Take training offered by some manufacturers and trade associations
- Become certified by SPF trade groups
- Use proper engineering controls such as exhaust and ventilation.
- Wear protective protection equipment

**Should I dispose of the product? How can I properly dispose of it?**

- Restrict access to worker area
- Use proper engineering controls such as exhaust and ventilation.
- Restrict work areas to essential workers
- Restrict access to work area while product is being sprayed
- Follow manufacturer's recommended re-entry/re-occupation time