

METHACRYLATE PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

STATEMENT REGARDING AOEC CLASSIFICATION OF METHYL METHACRYLATE

Last Updated 5/2/17

In its online Exposure Code database, the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics (AOEC) codes methyl methacrylate (MMA) as an asthmagen and respiratory sensitizer.

A number of thorough and careful evaluations of MMA have concluded it cannot be classified as an asthmagen or respiratory sensitizer. These assessments include:

- A recent review by the American Council of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), which concluded MMA should not be given a respiratory sensitizer designation;
- An exhaustive review of the literature published in 2011, which found sufficient scientific grounds to conclude that MMA is not causally related to the development of asthma. The main author of the publication, Jonathan Borak, M.D., is a Clinical Professor of Epidemiology & Public Health and Clinical Professor of Medicine at Yale University;
- A 2002 review by Health Canada which found insufficient evidence to regard MMA as a respiratory sensitizer;
- A 2001 review by medical, toxicological and regulatory experts from the governmental agencies of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, which concluded that there is no convincing evidence that MMA is a respiratory sensitizer in humans; and
- A 2001 European Union risk assessment of MMA, for which the review panel consisted of leading medical and toxicological experts of the Competent Authorities in the European Union as well as the World Health Organisation. The review found that the very few literature reports of asthma in the context of MMA exposure were associated with exposure levels that resulted in respiratory tract irritation.

Thus, the AOEC exposure codes, which were assigned by a single reviewer, do not comport with the findings of other scientific bodies. The Methacrylate Producers Association believes that the science does not support a finding that MMA is an asthmagen or a respiratory sensitizer.