FACT SHEET

n-Butyl Acetate

CAS #: 123-86-4

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Development Support Document (DSD) created by the TCEQ Toxicology Division (TD) for the development of Regulatory Guidelines (ESLs, AMCVs and ReVs) for ambient exposure to this chemical. For more detailed information, please see the DSD or contact the Toxicology Division by phone (1-877-992-8370) or e-mail (tox@tceq.texas.gov).

What is n-butyl acetate?

n-Butyl acetate (n-BA) is a clear colorless, flammable liquid with a characteristic odor. n-BA occurs naturally in bananas and related fruits and is produced and emitted during fermentation. It has also been found in a wide variety of food products. n-BA is mainly used as a solvent and a thinner in the production of nitrocellulose lacquers in the protective coatings industry. It is also used in the manufacturing of high-polish lacquers and varnishes, photographic film, nail polish removers, perfumes, oils, fats, vinyl resins, waxes, and camphor. n-BA is also used in the preservation of foodstuffs and in the inks and thinners of printing processes.

How is n-butyl acetate released into ambient air?

n-BA can be released into the air from industrial plants during the manufacturing process. n-BA is also released to the environment during its use in industrial coatings and use as a solvent in lacquers, inks, and adhesives. n-BA released to the environment is likely to volatilize to the atmosphere.

How can n-butyl acetate affect my health?

Permitted levels of n-BA should not cause adverse health and welfare effects. Both human and laboratory animal studies indicate that eye, nose and throat irritation occurs after short-term (one hour or less) exposure to high levels of n-BA. Animal studies indicate that minimal to mild irritation and temporary neurological effects occur after long-term inhalation exposure to high levels of n-BA.

There are no human or animal studies indicating n-BA has potential to be a human carcinogen. As a result, n-BA has not been evaluated for its potential to be a human carcinogen by the TCEQ, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the National Toxicology Program, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer..

Is n-butyl acetate odorous or harmful to plants?

n-BA may have a fruity, sharp and sweet odor at moderate levels. n-BA has not been shown to have adverse effects on plants.

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Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for n-butyl acetate?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline concentrations (ESLs, AMCVs, and ReVs) to protect human health and welfare. Please see Definitions of ESLs, ReVs, and AMCVs located on the TCEQ DSD webpage for more information. The air quality guideline concentrations for n-BA have been designed to protect the general public from short-term and long-term adverse health and welfare effects. The general public includes children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with pre-existing health conditions. If you would like to know more about the specific ESLs, AMCVs and ReVs developed, what the values are and what they are used for, please see the DSD.