FACT SHEET

ETHYLBENZENE

CAS #: 100-41-4

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 ethylbenzene?

Ethylbenzene is a colorless liquid with a gasoline-like odor. Ethylbenzene is used as a chemical intermediate to produce styrene, and also as a solvent. Ethylbenzene is commonly found in automobile and aviation fuels. It is also called ethylbenzol and phenylethane.

How is ethylbenzene released into ambient air?

Ethylbenzene is released into the air through manufacturing processes, and by the use of fuels and solvents.

How can ethylbenzene affect my health?

Permitted levels of ethylbenzene should not cause adverse health or welfare effects. Well conducted studies indicate that the central nervous system is the primary target. Short-term inhalation exposure to high concentrations of ethylbenzene can result in vertigo, dizziness, eye and throat irritation, and may also affect hearing. On a long-term basis, inhalation exposure to high concentrations of ethylbenzene may affect the kidney. Although ethylbenzene is regarded as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the United States Environmental Protection Agency considers it as "not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans". Ethylbenzene has not been classified as a human carcinogen by the TCEQ.

Is ethylbenzene odorous or harmful to plants?

Ethylbenzene has an aromatic-like odor. Ethylbenzene exposure has not been shown to be harmful to plants.

Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for ethylbenzene?

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 ethylbenzene 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.