FACT SHEET

Vinyl Acetate

CAS Number: 108-05-4

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 TD by phone (1-877-992-8370) or e-mail (tox@tceq.texas.gov).

What is vinyl acetate (VA)?

VA is an organic compound that is made by industries and is widely used as a building block for making other types of materials, such as polyvinyl acetate polymers and ethylene vinyl acetate copolymers. These products are then used in the making of glues for packaging and building products, paints, textiles, and paper. Other names for VA include vinyl acetate monomer (VAC) and vinyl ethanoate.

How is VA released into ambient air?

VA is not found naturally in the environment, so VA is most likely to be released into the air by industries that make or use VA. Currently, VA is not measured by the USEPA's ambient air quality monitoring program that is implemented by state and local agencies, including the TCEQ, for non-criteria pollutants.

How can VA affect my health?

Permitted levels of VA should not cause short- or long-term health effects. VA can be an irritant to the eyes, nose, and throat at sufficiently high concentrations, and exposure to significantly elevated inhaled doses for a sufficient duration can also lead to more serious respiratory and eye irritation as well as damage to the lining of the nasal and respiratory tract. While high, long-term exposure to VA can lead to cancer in the lining of the nasal and respiratory tract in laboratory animals, protecting against the initial tissue damage also protects against cancer. Based on available data, throat irritation is the most sensitive effect of short- term exposure to sufficiently high concentrations of VA, while tissue damage in the nose/respiratory tract is the most sensitive long-term effect. Permitted levels protect the public (including potentially sensitive subpopulations) against all adverse health effects of VA, including the most sensitive effects.

Is VA odorous to humans or harmful to plants?

VA has been described as having a sweet, fruity odor or a sharp, sour odor. Adverse effects to plants from VA in the ambient air have not been described.

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Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for VA?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline levels (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 levels for VA have been designed to protect the general public from short-term and long-term adverse health and welfare effects. The general public includes sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with preexisting 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.