FACT SHEET

Mixed Xylenes

CAS #: 1330-20-7

This fact sheet provides a summary of the Development Support Document (DSD) created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Toxicology Division for the development of Regulatory Guidelines (ESL 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 are mixed xylenes?

Mixed xylenes are a mixture of m-, o-, and p-xylene isomers. The mixture is a colorless liquid having a sweet hydrocarbon odor. It is used in the production of individual isomers, as solvent for paints and coatings, and is added to gasoline to boost its octane rating.

How are mixed xylenes released into ambient air?

Mixed xylenes may be released into the air by emissions from fuel terminals, as well as the production and use of paints, dyes, and lacquers.

How can mixed xylenes affect my health?

Permitted levels of mixed xylenes should not cause adverse health and welfare effects. Numerous toxicity studies have shown that neurological and respiratory effects are primary targets. Short-term inhalation exposure to mixed xylenes could result in throat discomfort and breathing difficulty, and in fatigue, headache, and dizziness. Long-term exposure to mixed xylenes can result in eye and nose irritation, sore throat, anxiety, forgetfulness, and a floating sensation. Mixed xylenes are regarded as not classifiable as to its carcinogenicity to humans by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, and the TCEQ have determined that mixed xylenes are not classifiable as a human carcinogen.

Are mixed xylenes odorous or harmful to plants?

Mixed xylenes have a sweet hydrocarbon odor at a relatively low concentration. They have not been shown to be harmful to plants.

Why does the TCEQ set Regulatory Guidelines for mixed xylenes?

The TCEQ has set various air quality guideline levels (ESLs 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 ESLs and ReVs for mixed xylenes 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 preexisting health conditions. If you would like to know more about the specific ESLs and ReVs developed, what the values are and what they are used for, please see the DSD.