

DuPont Refutes Allegations of Violating TSCA Act

WILMINGTON, Del., April 11, 2003 -- DuPont asserted today that the Environmental Working Group (EWG) has inaccurately represented PFOA as a health hazard when, in fact, it has been used by DuPont and others for more than 50 years with no known adverse human health effects. DuPont was responding to allegations that DuPont violated section 8(e) of the Toxic Substances Control Act by not reporting information about PFOA, a processing aid used to manufacture fluoropolymers.

“There is no evidence or data that demonstrates PFOA causes adverse human health effects, including developmental or reproductive effects, in any segment of the human population,” said Robert W. Rickard, director of the DuPont Haskell Laboratory for Health & Environmental Sciences.

Section 8(e) of the Toxic Substance Control Act requires reporting of information that “reasonably supports the conclusion” that a given substance “presents a substantial risk of injury to health.” The data referred to does not relate exposure to PFOA with any adverse human health effects, was not designed to do so, and did not meet reporting requirements under section 8(e) of TSCA.

The information cited is an informal recording of the presence of low levels of PFOA in eight blood samples taken from female employees working in or near the fluoropolymer manufacturing area at DuPont’s Parkersburg, W.Va., site in the early 1980s. The information was not part of any study evaluating employee exposure or human health effects related to PFOA. Although the information records one confirmed birth defect, there is no indication that it was caused by exposure to PFOA.

In 1981, 3M provided DuPont results of a preliminary study indicating that PFOA may cause birth defects in laboratory animals. As a precaution, DuPont immediately withdrew women of childbearing age from areas where they may be exposed to PFOA. Further testing by DuPont and 3M showed no birth defects were observed and it was concluded that the original study was not valid and that PFOA did not cause birth defects. Therefore, women were allowed to return in March of 1982 to the fluoropolymer area. This information was fully communicated to all employees in 1981 and 1982.

DuPont reiterated the following facts:

- PFOA, also known as C-8, is a processing aid used in the manufacture of fluoropolymers, some of which are sold under the Teflon® brand. PFOA has no known adverse health effects, based on more than 50 years of experience and testing. An extensive scientific database which includes both worker surveillance and peer-reviewed, published articles, support this position.
- PFOA is a biopersistent compound. This means that it can remain in the body or environment for extended period of time after exposure. It does not bioaccumulate,

nor is it acutely toxic. It is currently unregulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- Testing shows that non-stick cookware sold under the Teflon® brand does not contain PFOA. Testing also shows that industrial products used largely in the transportation, chemical processing and electronics industries contain only trace or non-detectable levels of PFOA.
- PFOA does not cause birth defects. It does not affect the ability to produce healthy offspring. It does not affect DNA.
- Although existing data do not show an association between PFOA (C-8) exposure and adverse human health effects, DuPont continues its ongoing study of the compound and is has been working with federal and state agencies as part of their efforts to determine human health-based screening levels for PFOA.

DuPont is a science company. Founded in 1802, DuPont puts science to work by solving problems and creating solutions that make people's lives better, safer and easier. Operating in more than 70 countries, the company offers a wide range of products and services to markets including agriculture, nutrition, electronics, communications, safety and protection, home and construction, transportation and apparel.

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