

The Facts about DEHP/DOP

The presence of DEHP/DOP in disposable vinyl examination and general purpose gloves is currently a hot topic. However, few gloves users understand why this chemical has attracted so much attention.

Q: What is DEHP/DOP?

A: DEHP (di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) and DOP (di-octyl phthalate) refer to the same chemical compound also recognized as BEHP (bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate). It is a broad-spectrum plasticizer used mostly to render polyvinyl chloride products soft, pliable, and durable. DEHP/DOP is the most widely used plasticizer in the manufacture of many vinyl products, including disposable gloves.

Q: Why is there increased interest in DEHP/DOP?

A: In 1986, the State of California enacted Proposition 65, a means to alert the public to potential health risks from products that contain certain chemicals. In 1998, DEHP was added to the list of chemicals that were identified by Proposition 65. More recently, the State of California passed Assembly Bill 1108, which goes into effect on 1 January 2009 as Health and Safety Code Section 108935. This bans the use of DEHP in polyvinyl chloride toys and child care articles in California. These articles are designed to be “used by children when they play” or “facilitate sleep, relaxation, or the feeding of children, or to help children with sucking or teething.” Although this does not affect disposable gloves, some glove users have become concerned about the presence of this chemical in the products they use.

Q: How is Sempermed addressing the DEHP/DOP issue?

A: Beginning in December 2008, all Sempermed vinyl examination and general purpose gloves will be manufactured without DEHP/DOP. This plasticizer will be replaced with DINP (di-isononyl phthalate), which is not recognized by the State of California as a potential health risk. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission determined in 2001 that health risks associated with DINP are extremely low or non-existent. Sempermed vinyl glove packaging will identify these products as “DEHP/DOP Free.”

Q: How can I learn more about Proposition 65 and California Health and Safety Code Section 108935?

A: Go to www.ca.gov for this and related information.

If you need additional information or assistance on technical issues concerning Sempermed gloves, please contact our Customer Service representatives at 800-366-9545.

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