

PROPYLENE GLYCOL

Information Update

PROPYLENE GLYCOL AND CATS

Propylene glycol is used as a moistening agent in many animal food applications, but not in cat food. Although propylene glycol is not used in cat food, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) still considers it “generally recognized as safe” (GRAS) for use in human food and all animal foods other than for cats¹.

Most cat food producers stopped using propylene glycol in 1992 when data indicated a unique sensitivity of cats to propylene glycol. Specifically, studies found that large doses of propylene glycol when fed to cats can produce an abnormality known as “Heinz body” in the cats’ red blood cells. Although Heinz bodies only appear to shorten the lives of feline red blood cells, FDA expressed concern that the bodies could cause anemia in cats².

In a final rule in 1996, FDA declared propylene glycol in or on cat food not generally recognized as safe.

Available data indicate that only cats appear to be sensitive to Heinz body formation from propylene glycol exposure. Heinz body formation from propylene glycol has not been observed in dogs, cattle, or humans. While changing regulations to end the cat food use of propylene glycol, FDA noted that the compound continues to be GRAS when used in accordance with good manufacturing or feeding practice for all species other than cats³.

* * * *

This update has been prepared by the American Chemistry Council’s Propylene Oxide/Propylene Glycol (PO/PG) Panel. The Panel’s purpose is to address advocacy, research, education, communication, and evaluation needed to promote safe practices among producers and users of PO and the glycol derivatives of PO. For more information, contact the Panel Manager, Anne LeHuray, at 703-741-5630, or e-mail at anne_lehuray@americanchemistry.com

July, 2001

The Panel and its member companies believe this document is, as of the date of publication, a technically accurate summary based on available scientific information. However, the Panel and its member companies do not make any warranties, expressed or implied, regarding the completeness or accuracy of the information presented and assume no responsibility for its use or for updating or revising the information provided after its publication.

© 2001 American Chemistry Council. All rights reserved.

¹ 21 C.F.R. §§ 184.1666 and 582.1666(b).

² 60 Fed. Reg. 24808 (May 10, 1995).

³ 21 C.F.R. § 582.1666(b), as issued in 61 Fed. Reg. 19542 (May 2, 1996).

The following information is provided as a service by LyondellBasell as a separate material to supplement the CHEMSTAR PO/PG Panel's propylene glycol information update provided on the prior pages.

As part of its commitment to product stewardship, LyondellBasell cooperates with other chemical manufacturers through our participation in the ACC Propylene Oxide/Propylene Glycol CHEMSTAR Panel to advise our propylene glycol customers on the safe use of the product. The panel has developed a number of information documents, including this document, which LyondellBasell is pleased to share with you. If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact us as indicated below.

Visit us at our Web site: www.lyondellbasell.com

Lyondell Chemical Company is a member of the LyondellBasell group companies.

This information is believed to be accurate as of the date of publication. It is the sole responsibility of the customer to determine whether the product is appropriate and suitable for the customer's specific use. Specific end uses may require approval by appropriate regulatory agencies. Lyondell Chemical Company makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the product or information contained therein. The applicable Material Safety Data Sheet should be reviewed by customer before handling the Lyondell Chemical product. Lyondell Chemical Company disclaims any liability for infringement of any patent by reason of customer's use of any Lyondell Chemical Company products in combination with other materials or in any process.

North American Regional Office | Houston, Texas, USA | Tel: +1 713 309 7200 or toll-free within USA +1 888 777 0232
European Regional Office | Rotterdam, The Netherlands | Tel: +31 10 275 5500
Asia Pacific Regional Office | Hong Kong, China | Tel: +852 2882 2668