



1900 Arch Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-1498 (215) 564-3484
Fax: (215) 564-2175 Email: tsa@fernley.com www.tinstabilizers.org

AN UPDATE ON THE EUROPEAN RISK ASSESSMENT

For the past few years, a study has been underway in Europe to determine the potential risks to health and the environment posed by a number of chemical compounds. The Risk Assessment was commissioned by the European Commission and includes organotin, versatile agents used in a variety of industrial applications, including as heat stabilizers in processing polyvinyl chloride (PVC or vinyl) and as catalysts in certain polyurethane, polyester and silicone systems. All uses of organotin in PVC were included in the study.

The Tin Stabilizers Association (TSA) and its European counterpart, ESPA/ETINSA, provided extensive information to the consultants working on the study. The first draft of the Risk Assessment concluded that, for most applications, **the use of tin stabilizers does not pose a risk to human health or the environment.**

The original draft also raised concerns in a few areas where tin stabilizers are no longer used, and identified some data gaps. ETINSA conducted additional studies and submitted data to address those gaps. The report has now been updated, incorporating the new data. Overall, the assessment still concludes that tin stabilizers do not pose a risk to human health or the environment in most applications.

Because of the approach taken, TSA takes issue with some of the conclusions in the latest report. Most importantly, the study evaluates consumer exposure based on combined exposures, and includes the use of butyl tins in applications where they are no longer used. As a result, **the study overstates the exposure and therefore the risk.** In addition, the report was based on emission factors that were developed for chemicals that are quite different than the organotin assessed.

TSA and ETINSA are trying to work with the scientific body of the European Commission, the CSTEE, to resolve these issues. We have already provided extensive data to fill the gaps identified in the Risk Assessment, and will continue to provide data as it becomes available. Meanwhile, we are researching the use of tin stabilizers with our customers, to ensure that our products are used safely in all products. It is important for our customers to understand that **the appropriate use of tin stabilizers does not pose a risk to human health or the environment.**

The Tin Stabilizers Association was established in 1999 to promote the use of tin stabilizers in vinyl plastics. Its member companies are Akcros Chemicals America, Atofina Chemicals, Inc., Baerlocher USA, Crompton Corporation, Reagens Canada, LTD, and Rohm and Haas Company. TSA works to provide accurate information about the quality and safety of tin stabilizers and to differentiate the use of tin stabilizers from other tin-based applications. TSA cooperates with other organizations throughout the world to promote product stewardship, conduct scientific studies and enhance communications related to tin stabilizers. More information: www.tinstabilizers.org.