



September 1, 2004

NOTE: For fire safety facts, pictures and video, please go to: <http://www.bsef.com>
Contact: Peter O'Toole, 202-530-4847

STUDY SHOWS LOW TO NO DETECTION OF DECA-BDE IN FOOD

Confirms EU's Broad Reaffirmation of Continued Use

Washington, D.C. – A study of foodstuffs found in a Texas supermarket reaffirms that exposure to the life-saving fire safety material Deca-BDE is well within the levels identified as safe by national and international experts, according to the Bromine Science and Environmental Forum (BSEF).

The study, published in *Environmental Science and Technology*, detected very low levels of certain polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in fish, meats, dairy products and other items – levels so low that the authors elected to report them on a parts-per-trillion basis.

Of the low levels of PBDE detection, even the highest levels – in this case, from the cheese sample – are a factor **millions of times** below the acceptable limit from a toxicological point of view.

Regarding Deca, a 150-pound individual could consume over 160,000 pounds of cheese – **the weight of a fully-loaded Boeing 727 – every day** and still be at a level of exposure considered acceptable by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Most of the fish samples did not contain any Deca-BDE – results similar to a much larger study of farmed and wild salmon that looked for Deca-BDE but found it so rarely, and in such small levels, the authors elected to not report it.

These latest results support those of the European Union in addition to those from the National Academy of Sciences, other world health and environment officials, and industry research that have concluded that Deca-BDE does not pose significant risk to human health. For example:

- In May 2004 the European Union issued a favorable scientific risk assessment of the flame retardant Deca-BDE, reaffirming its use without restrictions. The Risk Assessment is now closed.



- In the U.S., the National Academy of Sciences reported in 2000 that the use of deca-BDE in textile applications was acceptable and posed little risk to adults or children.
- In 2003, the Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Panel (VCCEP) Risk Assessment submitted by industry (and later reviewed by a panel of independent experts) found that deca-BDE poses no significant risk to children's health.
- In 1994, the World Health Organization concluded of deca-BDE: "[The] risk to the general population from [deca] is considered to be insignificant."
- The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission concluded: "[Deca] is not likely to present a hazard to consumers."

REFERENCES

www.bsef.org

Closure of Deca-BDE Risk Assessment: UK House of Commons Official report, July 6, 2004

Hale R, La Guardia M, Harvey E, Mainor T. 2002. Potential Role Of Fire Retardant-Treated Polyurethane Foam As A Source Of Brominated Diphenyl Ethers To The US Environment. *Chemosphere*, Feb, 46(5):729-35.

Hardy M. 2002a. The Toxicology Of The Three Commercial Polybrominated Diphenyl Oxide (Ether) Flame Retardants. *Chemosphere* 46, 757-777.

Hardy M. 2002b. Properties of the Major Commercial PBDDPO Flame Retardant, DBDPO, in Comparison to PBB and PCB. *Chemosphere* 46, 717-748.

Hardy M. 2001. BFRs In Breast Milk – Which Ones, How Much And What Does It Mean? Proceedings, American Chemistry Council's Brominated Flame Retardant Industry Panel, Brominated Flame Retardants Workshop. Nov 13, 2001. Arlington, VA.

NTP 1986. Toxicology and Carcinogenesis Studies of Decabromodiphenyl Oxide (CAS No.1163-19-5) in F344/N Rats and B6C3F1 Mice (Feed Studies). National Toxicology Program Technical Report Series No.398. U.S. Department of Health and Human Sciences. Public Health Service. National Institutes of Health. Research Triangle Park, NC.

Submissions to Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Panel (VCCEP) available at www.tera.org:

- Decabromodiphenyl Ether sponsor-submitted assessment document
- Octabromodiphenyl Ether sponsor-submitted assessment document
- Pentabromodiphenyl Ether sponsor-submitted assessment document