

IARC Reclassifies MOCA as Group I Carcinogen

by Donald P. Gallo, Esq., P.E. and Jeffrey A. Morris, P.E

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (“IARC”) recently reclassified 4,4'-methylenebis (2-chloroaniline) (“MOCA”) as “carcinogenic to humans” (Group 1) from its previous classification of “probably carcinogenic to humans” (Group 2A). The IARC has not yet published its official justification for the reclassification, but news release on the IARC website indicates that the reclassification was made based on “mechanistic and other relevant data” reviewed by the IARC.

A review of the British medical journal The Lancet revealed that the IARC considered data from four recent studies in making its determination. Interestingly, it does not appear that any of these studies conclusively demonstrate that MOCA causes cancer in humans. Rather, these studies purport to show only that MOCA causes damage to

human DNA. The IARC used this evidence, in combination with previously available studies that have documented that exposure to MOCA causes tumors in laboratory animals, as well as in-vitro tests that have shown that MOCA causes damage to DNA, to conclude that it had enough evidence to classify MOCA as a Group 1 carcinogen.

The PMA will be closely monitoring the actions of U.S. regulatory agencies in response to this reclassification. Thus far, the PMA is unaware of any pending U.S. reclassifications. However, in the event of any such efforts, the PMA will alert members of any opportunities to provide comment. Please contact Don Gallo at (262) 951-4500 if you have any questions regarding this reclassification.

Please Welcome “The 132 Club”

We are seeking help from all PMA members, especially the PMA Past Presidents. Throughout PMA’s 38 year history, the highest membership number ever attained was 131 members. With the combined efforts of our dedicated Member Services Chair Doug Van Brunt, the hard-working staff in the PMA office, and all willing volunteers – especially the Past Presidents – we are making efforts to exceed that number in 2009...thus...the formation of “The 132 Club”.

This Winter, volunteers will receive a list of contacts from the PMA office along with talking points and membership materials for reference. They will be asked to make calls and report back to the office on potential members of the association. The most valuable and important factor in this effort is the personal contact by industry peers.

Please join our efforts! Contact the office today to sign-up as a member of “The 132 Club”, and you will be contacted with more information later this Fall.



Yes!

Sign me up as a member of “The 132 Club”

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Best Contact Number: _____ Circle: mobile / office / home

Respond by e-mail to info@pmahome.org, via fax: 414-276-7704, or by calling the PMA office: 414-431-3094.