

MOCA Safe Use Guidance Document Update

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As discussed at the PMA Annual Meeting, one of the PMA Regulatory Division's goals for this year is to update the MOCA Safe Use Guidance document, which was last revised in 1999. Updating this document was a primary recommendation of the recently completed MOCA Handling Practices study conducted by Benedictine University under the direction of Dr. Ted Hogan. The update will incorporate the study findings as well as addressing changes in technology that have the potential to reduce MOCA exposures.

A key aspect of the use document that needs to be updated is the recommendation to conduct urinalysis testing to evaluate worker exposures. An overall conclusion of the PMA study was that those companies that conduct urinalysis testing of their employees are doing a good job of controlling exposures; the ability to document low exposures in the industry will be important to show regulators that further restrictions on MOCA use are not necessary. Because the main route of exposure to MOCA is through skin contact (i.e., dermal exposure), and because urinalysis is a highly effective means of documenting dermal exposure to MOCA, the MOCA Safe Use Guidance Document will be updated to 1) cover dermal exposure protection practices in more detail than in the current document and 2) provide stronger recommendations and suggestions for setting up a successful urinalysis program. Routine urinalysis is in the best interest of employers because it provides meaningful evidence to state and federal agencies that an employer's work practices are protective of worker health.

As reported at the annual meeting, PMA is looking for representatives from processors and suppliers to serve on the review committee for the MOCA Safe Use Guidance Document updating process, as well as for comments from the general membership regarding the same. Because dermal exposure is also an issue with isocyanates, the expanded worker protection practices in the use document will be of use to all processors, not just those using MOCA.

Please email Don Gallo at dgallo@reinhartlaw.com if you would like to serve on the update committee or have comments the committee should consider, or if you are just interested in monitoring the email correspondence associated with this PMA project. We will provide updates on the status of this work in future editions of PolyTopics.

2011 PMA Call for Technical Papers

The Polyurethane Manufacturers Association (PMA) is soliciting Technical Papers for presentation during the 2011 PMA Annual Meeting, April 10-12, 2011 to be held at Amelia Island Plantation outside of Jacksonville, Florida. Presentation date will be the morning of Tuesday, April 12, 2011. **Abstract deadline is Friday, September 24, 2010.** Selected abstracts will be notified by the end of 2010. Completed papers are due March 4, 2011.

For more than three decades, PMA's technical paper presentations have provided an important industry opportunity to showcase technical developments to industry leaders at the Association's meetings. Technical papers are chosen for presentation based on their technical content, timeliness of the subject, and relevance to PMA members and the industry. An award for the Best Technical Paper is selected by meeting attendees.

If you or someone you know is interested in presenting, please contact the PMA office at (414) 431-3094 or send the following to info@pmahome.org:

- Company name, address, phone, fax, e-mail and web site
- Information on all presenters including direct phone, extension and e-mail
- Title of proposed paper
- Description of proposed paper (approximately 100 words)

You may also visit the PMA web site for more information, and to submit your technical paper online: www.pmahome.org.

The Polyurethane Manufacturers Association is the trade association of the cast polyurethane processing industry, serving processors of polyurethane products, materials and equipment suppliers, and independent agents. PMA exchanges and disseminates information on standards, materials, processes, and technical matters, in addition to monitoring regulatory and legislative activity affecting the urethane industry. The Canadian Urethane Manufacturers Association is the trade association of the cast polyurethane processing industry in Canada.

For information on submission, please contact:

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