



# HSIA

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# SOLVENTS NEWS YOU CAN USE

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## **EPA RELEASES ITS FINAL IRIS ASSESSMENT FOR DICHLOROMETHANE (METHYLENE CHLORIDE)**

EPA released its final IRIS assessment of dichloromethane on Friday, November 18th, at 5:30 p.m. The summary can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/iris/subst/0070.htm> and an accompanying Toxicological Review has also been added to the IRIS website at <http://www.epa.gov/iris/toxreviews/0070tr.pdf>. There are few surprises from the external draft. Methylene chloride continues to be classified as a “likely human carcinogen” and the cancer slope factors are unchanged from the draft. The inhalation slope factor is significantly lower than earlier EPA, CalEPA and OSHA risk estimates, and represents EPA’s acceptance of PBPK modeling approaches supported by HSIA since the mid-1990’s. The real surprise was that this assessment was released before the perchlorethylene IRIS assessment.

## **FINAL ACTION ON THE OZONE TRANSPORT COMMISSION’S PROPOSED MODEL RULE ON SOLVENT DEGREASING IS DELAYED**

Due to last minute stakeholder comments and a concern regarding a small volume exemption, the Ozone Transport Commission decided not to present the 2011 Model Rule on Solvent Degreasing for approval at its November 10th meeting in Delaware. You can view the current draft by visiting [www.otc-air.org](http://www.otc-air.org) and then clicking on ‘meetings.’ HSIA has confirmed that the vapor degreasing requirements in the current draft are unchanged from the 2001 model rule. The decision was made because OTC staff agreed that TCE was already adequately regulated under the National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for solvent degreasing. A new VOC content limit requirement will be applied to cold cleaners. The Commissioners decided to resume taking stakeholder comments – due January 16, 2012 - and will prepare a new draft (#4) for release in early February 2012. A stakeholder review meeting will be held in early March followed by conference calls to provide ample time for additional comments.

## **FOLLOW-UP TO MEETING WITH EPA TO DISCUSS THE DRY CLEANING NATIONAL EMISSIONS STANDARD FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS (NESHAP)**

As reported last month, HSIA met with EPA staff in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina on the referenced NESHAP to obtain an update on current and proposed activities on these standards. Joining us in the meeting were Nora Nealis from the National Cleaners Association, Mary Scalco from the Dry Cleaning and Laundry Institute, Kevin Lawson and Dave Dawson representing the Textile Care and Allied Trades Association, and Chris Edwards from A Cleaner World. EPA staff told us they planned to make a determination on whether to change the dry cleaning standards or keep it the same by the end of 2011. EPA’s status report just filed with the Court on the Sierra Club/HSIA petitions, however, indicates that no decision has yet been made.

## **HSIA RESPONSE TO MEDIA COVERAGE OF STUDY ENTITLED “SOLVENT EXPOSURES AND PARKINSON’S DISEASE RISK IN TWINS”**

In recent weeks there has been widespread media coverage of the referenced study. Given the limitations of the study, HSIA believes that it would not be appropriate to draw conclusions from this study about a causal association between solvent exposures and Parkinson’s Disease. For HSIA’s full response, please visit “What’s New – Press Releases” on the HSIA website – [www.hsia.org](http://www.hsia.org)

## **HSIA FILES COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL TOXICOLOGY PROGRAM (NTP) PROPOSED REVIEW PROCESS FOR THE 13TH REPORT ON CARCINOGENS**

On November 30th, HSIA filed comments on the NTP process pointing out that its greatest concern is the continued downgrading of the role of the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors in the listing decision for the Report on Carcinogens. If you’d like a copy of the comments, please let us know.

