NEWS RELEASE
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HSIA QUESTIONS THE FINDINGS BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCHERS ON PERCHLOROETHYLENE RISKS

Arlington, VA (January 27, 2012) – The Halogenated Solvents Industry Alliance, Inc. (HSIA) urges caution when considering the findings of two studies published in the journal *Environmental Health* linking prenatal/early childhood exposure to perchloroethylene in drinking water with an increased risk of mental illness and "risky behavior" later in life.

The first of the two papers published by the Boston University researchers suggested that exposure to perchloroethylene increased the risk of using two or more major illicit drugs, including crack/cocaine, psychedelics/hallucinogens, club/designer drugs, Ritalin without a prescription, and heroin. The second paper suggests an increased risk of mental illness, including bipolar disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The researchers themselves concluded that the findings in both studies need to be confirmed in investigations of other similarly exposed populations.

"There are several limitations associated with both of these studies," says John Bell, HSIA's Director of Scientific Programs, "such as their reliance on self-reporting from test subjects rather than on information from actual medical records. In addition, the authors note that historical exposure measurements were not available and they had to rely on modeled estimates of exposure. The bottom line is that we are left with two studies in which modeled, not measured, prenatal/early childhood exposures to perchloroethylene are weakly associated with a series of self-reported mental and behavioral disorders. It is important to remember that a weak association between an exposure and an effect does not, in itself, provide any evidence of causation. It is unfortunate that causation is inferred by the authors in both papers."

HSIA and its member companies remain committed to the safe and responsible use of perchloroethylene. Users should follow all applicable laws and regulations as well as manufacturers' recommendations contained in Safety Data Sheets.