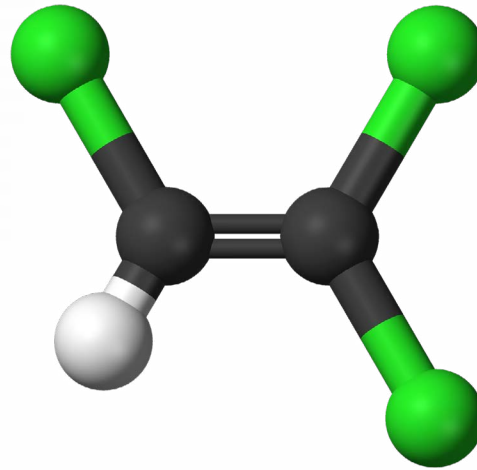


WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT TRICHLOROETHYLENE (TCE)

Content courtesy of SLIDE Products.



New EPA assessments and Slide Products' decision to eliminate all chlorinated solvents.

On September 28, 2011, the EPA issued their "final health assessment" for trichloroethylene (TCE), one of the most widely used chlorinated solvents nationwide, to the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS.) It states:

"The final assessment characterizes the chemical as carcinogenic to humans..."

What does this mean?

This assessment has already made an impact on our industry. While some aerosol manufacturers have kept TCE in their formulations, the solvent's availability has become very limited. Dow, for example, no longer makes TCE accessible to our industry while PPG has chosen to significantly raise its price and limit its availability. This in turn has driven up costs and resulted in higher prices for molders and mold makers who use products like mold cleaners, which contain TCE as a solvent.

Slide Products believes that the final EPA assessment is the beginning of an inevitable phase-out of TCE from our industry, and molders and mold makers need to re-evaluate the products they use in manufacturing. We also believe that other aerosol manufacturers need to start the process now for finding safe, effective alternatives to the mold releases, mold cleaners, rust preventives, lubricants and other products you use.

What can you do?

To eliminate TCE from your operation, molders like you should take a hard look at all the aerosols and chemicals used in their manufacturing and cleaning and mold maintenance processes. It's not as simple as looking at the product label, however. Unlike consumer products, industrial aerosols and chemicals are not subject to the same regulations and requirements and will most likely NOT show



ingredients on their label. You need to review the MSDS kept on file at your company for each product, and/or contact the manufacturer to determine if formulation you're using contains TCE or other chlorinated solvents.

What alternatives do you have?

There are several solvent alternatives similar to TCE currently being used in aerosol and chemical formulations. They include:

- 1) **Perchloroethylene (PERC)**. The most popular solvent in the dry cleaning process, PERC is also being used by some product manufacturers in the molding and mold-making industry. Though PERC's benefits are similar to those of TCE, OSHA standards and guidelines limit workers' exposure to the solvent in order to minimize health hazards.
- 2) **Toluene**. Used far less frequently as a solvent, toluene is a clear, colorless liquid with a strong, sweet, pungent odor. You may recognize its distinctive scent in paint thinner, fingernail polish, spot removers, lacquers, adhesives, rubber and antifreeze. Inhaling high levels of toluene, however, can be extremely dangerous. Repeatedly breathing toluene over long periods of time can cause death, permanent brain damage, unconsciousness or depression.
- 3) **Chlorine-free solvents**. There are effective alternative solvents that have no known health or environmental issues. Slide Products made the decision to eliminate chlorinated solvents from our products in July 2011, well before the EPA assessment was made public.

By pro-actively eliminating TCE from the few products in our line that had this solvent, and not using any chlorinated solvents of any kind, we've eliminated the questions and guesswork involved in selecting products that are safe, effective and better for the work environment. You can be sure that Slide Products' entire line of products – mold releases, mold cleaners, rust preventives, lubricants, purges and more – have no chlorinated solvents. None. If you are using Slide's products, you are already transitioned to better formulations.

Here are several products from Slide Products to consider:

Mold Releases

EconoMist
LMR Lecithin
Pure Eze
Silicone Mold Release
Universal

Rust Preventive

White Rhino

Cleaners

IPA isopropyl alcohol
Mold Cleaner Plus Degreaser 4
Mold & Metal Wipes
NexGen
On Cycle

Pin Lubrication

Super Grease non-aerosol

Contact DME for more product options.
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