

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[TSH-FRL-1974-5; OPTS-42003]

**Butyl Glycolyl Butyl Phthalate; Response to the Interagency Testing Committee****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice is EPA's response to the Interagency Testing Committee's (ITC) designation of butyl glycolyl butyl phthalate (BGBP) for health and environmental effects testing under section 4(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). EPA will not propose a section 4(a) rule to require further effects testing of BGBP at this time. EPA's information to date indicates that very little of the production of BGBP is covered under TSCA. The Agency plans to await the results of an extensive voluntary testing program for assessing the toxicity of other phthalic acid esters in order to evaluate more fully the need for further toxicity testing of BGBP.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John B. Ritch, Jr., Director, Industry Assistance Office (TS-799), Office of Toxic Substances, Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M St., SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. Toll Free: 800-424-9060; In Washington, D.C.: 554-1401; Outside the USA: Operator-202-554-1404.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Background**

Section 4(e) of TSCA (Sec. 4(a); 90 Stat. 2003 (15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.)) established an Interagency Testing Committee (ITC) to recommend a list of chemicals for EPA to consider for promulgation of testing rules under section 4(a) of the Act. The ITC may designate up to 50 substances or categories of substances at any one time for priority consideration by EPA. TSCA

requires EPA to respond within twelve months of the date a substance is recommended by initiating rulemaking under section 4(a) or by publishing reasons in the Federal Register for not initiating rulemaking.

The ITC designated butyl glycolyl butyl phthalate (BGBP) for testing in its Seventh Report, published in the Federal Register of November 25, 1980, 45 FR 78441-78443, recommending that it be tested for mutagenicity and other genotoxic effects, reproductive effects, and environmental effects. The recommendations were based on (1) an annual production of one to ten million pounds (TSCA Inventory figure) and use in construction and consumer products, (2) chromosomal aberrations produced by BGBP during *in vitro* testing of mammalian cells, (3) chemical analogy with other phthalate esters that affect mammalian reproduction, coupled with a dearth of information on the reproductive effects of BGBP, and (4) chemical analogy with di(2-ethylexyl) phthalate, a phthalate ester that has considerable toxicity to and bioconcentrates in aquatic organisms.

This notice serves as EPA's response to the ITC designation of BGBP for testing pursuant to section 4(e) of TSCA.

**II. Decision Not to Require Testing**

The most recent information available to EPA indicates that the former primary producer of BGBP has left the market and that current domestic production of BGBP is less than 250,000 pounds per year; little or none of the chemical is imported. Furthermore, most BGBP now moving in commerce is used as an indirect food additive that falls under the authority of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and is therefore excluded from TSCA coverage.

Thus, EPA has decided that the relatively low production volume of BGBP compared with that of other phthalate esters, much of which appears to be excluded from TSCA authority, is

insufficient to justify section 4 testing at this time.

A comprehensive voluntary testing program for selected phthalate esters is expected to be undertaken by the Phthalate Ester Program Panel of the Chemical Manufacturers Association. EPA consideration of results from this toxicity testing program may provide for a more sound evaluation of the potential risk posed by BGBP to health and the environment.

The risk potential of BGBP may need to be reevaluated if there is a significant increase in the production or importation volumes of the chemical, an increase in potential exposure to the chemical, or an increase in the concern for potential health or environmental effects as a consequence of the results of the planned voluntary phthalate ester testing program.

**III. Public Record**

EPA has established a public record for this testing decision (docket number OPTS-42003) which is available for inspection in the OTS reading room from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on working days in Rm. E-106, 401 M St., SW., Washington, D.C. 20460. This record includes basic information considered by the Agency in developing this decision. The Agency will supplement the record with additional relevant information as it is received. The record includes the following information:

(1) Federal Register notice containing the designation of butyl glycolyl butyl phthalate to the Priority List.

(2) Letters.

(3) Contact reports of telephone conversations.

(4) Published and unpublished data.

(Sec. 4, 90 Stat. 2003 (15 U.S.C. 2601))

Dated: October 23, 1981.

Anne M. Gorsuch,  
Administrator.

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