



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Applicability Determination Index

Control Number: M980027

Category: MACT
EPA Office: Region 2
Date: 05/14/1998
Title: Glycol Ethers as HAPs
Recipient: Desso, Christine
Author: Bordellino, Ronald

References: 112

Abstract:

Q. Is propyl monomethyl ether considered to be a hazardous air pollutant?

A. The definition of glycol ethers in Section 112 of the Clean Air Act includes only ethers of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol and triethylene glycol with the structure R-(OCH₂CH₂)_n-R'. Ethers of propylene glycol do not fit this definition and as such are not considered a HAP.

Letter:

Signed May 14, 1998

Mr. Christopher S. Desso
Project Manager
Environmental Resources Management (ERM)
40A Grove Street
Pittsford, New York 14534

Dear Mr. Desso:

Your letter of April 23, 1998, to Mr. Ken Eng of Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 2 Office was forwarded to me for a response. You stated that recently New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) determined that propylene glycol monomethyl ether is not a Hazardous Air Pollutant (HAP). ERM is now requesting a similar determination from EPA. Further, ERM is also requesting such a determination for the Title V permitting process.

The definition of glycol ethers in Section 112 of the Clean Air Act includes only ethers of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol and triethylene glycol with the structure R-(OCH₂CH₂)_n-R'. Ethers of propylene glycol do not fit this definition and as such are not considered a HAP. Please note that EPA may revise in future the definition or the listing of HAPs based on the availability of additional data. As far as the Title V permitting process is concerned, such a process is governed by the individual state regulation. The definition of a "regulated air pollutant" in a state's regulation may or may not cover ethers of propylene glycol. Please consult with the state permitting authority for further guidance. I hope this clarification is helpful. If you have any questions, please call Umesh Dholakia of my staff at (212) 637-4023.

Sincerely,

Ronald Borsellino, Chief
Air Programs Branch