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California Agency Issues Safe Use Determination under Prop 65 for Vinyl Flooring Containing DINP Plasticizer

July 6, 2016 – LaGrange, GA – The California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has issued a Safe Use Determination (SUD) under Prop 65 for diisononyl phthalate (DINP) exposures to building residents and occupants from vinyl flooring products containing 18.9% DINP by weight or less. The finding is based on OEHHA’s determination that exposure of building residents and occupants to DINP from these vinyl flooring products does not exceed the DINP “safe harbor level” for protecting health. Thus, a Prop 65 consumer warning for the qualifying products is not required. DINP has been used as a plasticizer in many products to make them flexible, including some vinyl floors.

The Resilient Floor Covering Institute (RFCI) in November 2014 asked OEHHA to evaluate exposure to DINP in vinyl flooring and issue a SUD after the chemical was added to the state’s Prop 65 list in December 2013. The RFCI request was the first SUD sought since late 2007. OEHHA’s issuance of the SUD on June 21, 2016 is in response to the RFCI request.

“We are pleased that OEHHA has reviewed exposure levels of DINP in virgin and recycled vinyl flooring and found that the qualifying products do not require a Prop 65 warning for building residents and occupants,” said Dean Thompson, President of the RFCI. “OEHHA’s decision confirms that the presence of DINP in vinyl flooring not exceeding the 18.9% threshold is safe and appropriate for consumers. DINP is a thoroughly studied compound that enhances the flexibility, resiliency, and long-lasting performance of vinyl flooring.”

For more information about RFCI, visit rfci.com.

Background

DINP is a general plasticizer present in many products, including some vinyl flooring, carpet backings, roofing, wire and cable, and automotive products. On December 20, 2013, DINP was added as a reproductive hazard to a list of almost 900 chemicals established under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, commonly referred to as Prop 65. Manufacturers using DINP were given a one-year period to determine whether warnings needed to be displayed on their products containing DINP.

RFCI submitted a SUD request to California OEHHA on November 24, 2014. Exposure experts at the California agency reviewed documentation for four types of vinyl flooring –

heterogeneous, homogeneous, vinyl tile, and vinyl composition tile – and studied DINP exposure via skin absorption, inhalation, and ingestion. The agency determined that DINP exposure to building residents and occupants from vinyl flooring containing 18.9% DINP or less does not exceed the safe harbor level and issued a SUD on June 21, 2016. This year, the California Court of Appeals will consider an appeal filed by the American Chemistry Council in May 2015 to remove DINP from the Prop 65 list.

About RFCI

The Resilient Floor Covering Institute (www.rfci.com) is a nonprofit industry trade association that represents the major manufacturers of resilient flooring and materials used in resilient flooring marketed throughout North America. RFCI has led the resilient flooring industry to the forefront of sustainability, with the development of four environmental tools for purchasers and specifiers: (1) the FloorScore® independent certification program for indoor air emissions; (2) Environmental Product Declarations that disclose industry averages for environmental impacts over a product's lifecycle; (3) Product Transparency Declarations that provide information on flooring product ingredients; and (4) ANSI/NSF 332 Sustainability Assessment for Resilient Floor Coverings that provide a third-party product sustainability certification. RFCI is located in LaGrange, GA.