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Novemer™ EC-2 Polymer Toxicology Studies

The toxicology studies summarized below were performed on polymers with chemical compositions representative of Novemer™ EC-2 polymer. Therefore, this toxicology data is expected to be predictive of the toxicity of the commercial grades of Novemer EC-2 polymer.

Eye Irritation

The eye irritation of the undiluted test material was evaluated in rabbits according to OECD Guideline No. 405, 1987; Method B5 of Commission Directive 92/69/EEC. The test material (0.1 ml) was placed in the conjuntival sac of the one eye of each of three animals. The other eye served as an untreated control. The eyes were evaluated 1, 24, 48, and 72 hours following treatment. The test material produced a maximum mean score of 9.3 out of 110 and was classified as mildly irritating.

Skin Irritation

The skin irritation of the undiluted test material was evaluated in rabbits according to OECD Guideline No. 404, 1992; Method B4 of Commission Directive 92/69/EEC. The test material (0.5 ml) was applied to the intact skin on the backs of three animals under a semi-occlusive dressing. Four hours after the application of the test material, the patches were removed, and the test material was gently removed from the skin. The test sites were evaluated one hour after removal of the patches and at 1, 24, 48, 72 hours, and 7days. The test material produced a primary irritation index score of 1.5 and was classified as mildly irritating.

Skin Sensitization

The skin sensitization potential of a number of samples of the test material was evaluated in the mouse using the Local Lymph Node Assay based on the guidelines described in OECD, Section 4, Health Effects, No. 429 (2002), Paris Cedex, EC, Council Directive 67/548/EEC, Annex IV C, B.42 (Draft), June 2001 and EPA Health Effects Test Guidelines OPPTS 870.2600, 2003. Groups of five mice were treated with the test material a concentrations of 0%, 2.5%, 10%, and 50% w/v in propylene glycol (25 ul/ear) by daily application to the dorsal surface of each ear for three consecutive days. Five days following the first topical application, all mice were injected with 25 ul of phosphate buffered saline containing 3H-methyl thymidine via tail vein giving a total dose of 20 uCi to each mouse. A single cell suspension of pooled lymph node cells was prepared by mechanical disaggregation through stainless steel gauze (125um diameter). The cells were washed and centrifuged, precipitated, and re-centrifuged at 4°C, and then were measured for ^{3}HTdr incorporation. Based on the initial results, additional groups of animals were treated with test substance concentrations of 35% and 50%, a repeat dose.

Solutions of 5% 10% and 25% alpha-hexylcinnamic aldehyde in propylene glycol were used as the positive controls.

The majority of lymph nodes were normal, except for one that was reduced in size in the 50% group. One animal in the 2.5% group was found dead on day 6. No macroscopic abnormalities or systemic toxicity were noted. The stimulation index (SI) for the test substance was determined to be 1.5, 1.9, and 1.3 at 2.5%, 10%, and 50%, respectively. Because the SI values were below the criteria for a positive response (test/control ratio > 3), the test substance was determined not to cause a sensitization response under the conditions of this test.

Lubrizol Advanced Materials, Inc. / 9911 Brecksville Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44141-3247 / TEL: 800.379.5389 or 216.447.5000