

Health Matters 2012

The importance of employee health and safety in the workplace cannot be over emphasized. Employees are our greatest resource and their well-being is everyone's responsibility. The management and monitoring of the chemicals and materials used in the workplace are intrinsic to this responsibility.

Copps Industries, since its inception in 1979, has been, and is dedicated to the health, welfare, and safety of our employees and of our customers' employees. Thus, we feel that you should be aware of ingredient differences in key materials available to you.

Specifically, not one of our epoxy products contains the toxic chemical Butyl Glycidyl Ether- CAS No. 2426-08-6. BGE, as it is commonly called, has been proven by Gentox-Ames testing to cause mutations in the genetic material of living cells. Additional testing on laboratory animals has shown BGE to cause testicular atrophy and hematopoietic abnormalities (loss of sperm mobility). The study exposed the laboratory animals to vapor only of the chemical! It was not ingested nor applied to the skin. BGE is also a severe eye and skin irritant. It is on the NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health) list of chemicals "immediately dangerous to life and health." The EPA (SARA Title III, section 312) also lists it as "Toxic" (per ANSI Z129.1) by skin absorption and an immediate health hazard. The dermal (skin) LD50 (lethal dose) for BGE is 788 mg/kg. Hence, if a 200-pound person were splashed, or came in contact with just 72 grams (equal to 1/3 of a coffee cup, 2-1/2 ounces in volume), death will occur in half the exposures.

In 2011, Canada's Canadian Environmental Protection Act of 1999, was amended to add "BGE" as a toxic material. *BGE* was identified as a high priority for assessment for human health risk, because it was considered to present ... potential for exposure of individuals in Canada. These critical effects for the characterization of risk to human health from *n*-butyl glycidyl ether are carcinogenicity and genotoxicity.

Real and significant differences do exist in the epoxy products available to you. Copps Industries will continue to develop and manufacture products that not only excel in function and performance, but are safer for the workplace. As a leading supplier to your industry, we feel obligated to disclose this information and allow you to make the right decision.