

**SEHSC Statement:
Government of Canada's Chemical Management Program
Final Screening Assessments for D₄, D₅ and D₆
January 30, 2009**

On January 30, 2009 the Canadian Ministers of Environment and Health issued their final screening assessments for a group of chemicals, including D₄ (cyclotetrasiloxane), D₅ (cyclopentasiloxane) and D₆ (cyclohexasiloxane), commonly known as cyclic volatile methylsiloxanes (cVMS), as a part of its on-going Chemicals Management Program (CMP). The Silicones Environmental Health and Safety Council (SEHSC) supports Canada's mission to manage chemicals in a manner that protects human health and the environment.

The Ministers' final screening assessments found that D₄, D₅ and D₆ do not pose a risk to human health. The Minister of Environment also found that D₆ does not pose a risk to the environment.

The Minister of Environment has recommended listing D₄ and D₅ as possibly warranting environmental regulatory measures. No action has been taken based on this recommendation. If the recommendation is adopted, the Canadian Government will factor in soon to be completed scientific studies further examining how the materials actually behave in the environment. We fully expect that these studies will continue to demonstrate that D₄ and D₅ are safe for the environment and that action is not needed.

More than 130 studies show these cyclic siloxanes are safe for human health and the environment in all intended uses. Based on the strength of the current scientific data, other regulatory bodies, such as the United Kingdom's Environmental agency and the EU's European Chemicals Bureau, are awaiting definitive studies of how D₄ and D₅ actually behave in the environment before deciding whether risk management is needed. This is the same science-driven course we have been urging the Canadian Minister of Environment to take.

D₄ and D₅ are important ingredients in a broad range of products that are important to the Canadian economy and to international trade. In addition, these ingredients provide numerous consumer-desired qualities and benefits that cannot be easily replicated by alternative materials. We believe any significant restriction on them would provide no measurable environmental benefit while creating unnecessary inconvenience and expense for consumers, retailers, manufacturers, and distributors.

SEHSC is committed to help make certain that the risk management considerations for D₄ and D₅ reflect all available scientific data and accepted scientific methodology. SEHSC will continue to provide new data as it becomes available and work with Health and Environment to develop scientifically defensible risk-based CMP assessments that recognize the unique nature and benefits of silicones. SEHSC members remain committed to bringing safe, environmentally friendly, and high quality products to market.

For more information on silicone manufacturers' activities to address this initiative, go to www.sehsc.com, or contact—

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