

July, 2009

Volume 2, Issue 5

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### *Omni's Family of Gloves*

- 111 Series Latex Powdered Examination Gloves
- 112 Series Latex Powder Free Examination Gloves
- 113 Series Latex Powder Free Examination Gloves
- 202 Series "Lite Touch" Nitrile Examination Gloves
- 212 Series Nitrile Examination Gloves For EMS & Chemotherapy
- 311 Series Powdered Vinyl Examination Gloves
- 312 Series Powder Free Vinyl Examination Gloves
- 361 Series Powdered NSF Food Service Vinyl Gloves
- 362 Series Powder Free NSF Food Service Vinyl Gloves
- 412 Series Powder Free Stretch Vinyl Examination Gloves

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# GLOVE LINES

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Editors Note— We realize many of you are being asked more and more questions about DOP/DEHP. This "plasticizer" that is used in most vinyl gloves is drawing added attention as health agencies review the use of such plasticizers in health care and food service products. We hope this month's newsletter offers information to further assist your sales efforts.

## **What in the World is DEHP/DOP?**

DEHP (di-2-ethylhexyl phthalate) sometimes known as DOP (di-octyl phthalate) is a commonly used plasticizer from the phthalate ester family and has been in use in flexible PVC (Poly Vinyl Chloride) products since the 1930's. Flexible PVC products for building, automotive, medical and packaging applications usually contain phthalates.

As phthalates have been used for such a long time, they continue to be closely studied to ensure that their use is safe. It has been known for many years that small amounts of plasticizers can leach out of the products under certain circumstances. One such circumstance is medical tubing, blood and other intravenous (IV) fluid bags where phthalate plasticizer that may have migrated into the fluid during storage can enter the patient.

In 2000, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) reclassified DEHP, the most commonly used plasticizer in flexible PVC products as non-carcinogenic to humans. Previous to that, in 1982 they had classified these

plasticizers as "possibly carcinogenic to humans". In 1990 the European Commission established its own position that DEHP shall not be labeled or classified as a carcinogen based on studies which showed differences in how species respond to DEHP.

In reaching its 2000 decision to downgrade the classification of DEHP to "not classifiable as to carcinogenicity in humans" they reviewed more recent scientific studies that took into account the evidence that the mechanism by which DEHP induces liver tumors in rats and mice is not relevant to humans.

In 2003 the CDC released a report on phthalates that confirmed that median exposures to phthalates were well below levels that could be expected to cause health effects, based on exposure level study using blood and urine tests.

There is no evidence that anyone has been harmed by exposure to phthalate plasticizers. Nevertheless, scientific uncertainty about the potential of phthalates disrupting the human endocrine system or reproductive development has led to significant continued debate about their safety. Eighty six hospitals and GPO's in 12 states have pledged to reduce the use of PVC and/or DEHP and the list is growing!

Omni International wants to remind you that all our vinyl gloves (311, 312, 361, 362 and 412 series) are DOP/DEHP FREE. Very few companies can say that about their vinyl glove products. Just another reason Omni is becoming a leader in vinyl glove production.