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Omni's Family of Gloves

- 111 Series Latex Powdered Examination Gloves
- 113 Series Latex Powder Free Examination Gloves
- 202 Series "Lite Touch" Nitrile Examination Gloves
- 212 Series Nitrile Examination Gloves For EMS & Chemotherapy
- 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
- Plus—A wide variety of consumer/retail, food service, general purpose, and medical labels.

GLOVE LINES

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GLOVE LINES



DOP/DEHP Issues are starting to rise

As most of you know, Omni International began manufacturing our DOP/DEHP Free Vinyl (312, 361, and 362 series) and Stretch Vinyl Gloves (412 series) almost 10 years ago. As matter of fact, EVERY vinyl glove Omni produces is DOP/DEHP Free, whether it is a general purpose, food service or medical glove. Since we first mentioned DOP/DEHP in one of the first GLOVE LINES editions almost two years ago, we have seen many of our distributors as well as end-user customers raise questions about this issue.

Our sales department and offices have been receiving numerous inquiries from all facets of the glove world, especially food service, as to the availability of DOP/DEHP Free Vinyl Gloves.

What really brought this to a head was Proposition 65. **Proposition 65** is a [California](#) law that has been in effect since [1986](#) to promote clean drinking water, and keep toxic substances that cause [cancer](#) and [birth defects](#) out of consumer products. It is administered by Cal/EPA's [California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment](#) (OEHHA). Proposition 65 regulates substances listed by California as causing cancer or birth defects or other reproductive harm in two ways. The first regulatory arm of Proposition 65 prohibits businesses from knowingly discharging listed substances into drinking water sources, or onto land

where the substances can pass into drinking water sources. The second regulatory arm of Proposition 65 prohibits businesses from knowingly exposing individuals to listed substances without providing a clear and reasonable warning.

Since enactment, Proposition 65 has been the reason for the addition of notices of specific contents to consumer product labels. Along with the added label requirements, an official list of implicated substances is maintained and made publicly available. Entries are added or removed based on current scientific information. All substances listed show their known or suspected risk factors, a unique [CAS chemical classification number](#), the date they were listed, and if so, whether they have been delisted. For instance, The following [warning label](#) must appear on products sold in California if they contain chemicals on the Proposition 65 list of hazardous substances.

WARNING: This product contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause [cancer](#) and [birth defects](#) or other reproductive harm.

Over 125 medical facilities and health care delivery systems are banning the use of all products containing DOP/DEHP in their facilities. Many of these facilities are located in states other than California. (A listing of these facilities is available from your Omni Representative.)

As we mentioned earlier in this article, we have noticed a growing number of requests and a very heightened in-

crease in interest over the past 3-4 months with the unbelievable price increases in latex. As you may know, many customers have been understandably trying to switch from latex to either nitrile or vinyl. As the cost of latex and nitrile continue to increase along with a minimal increase in vinyl glove pricing, this situation is exacerbated.

And at the same time, IF a customer is looking toward a vinyl product, they are seeking the safest vinyl that can be found. This includes many large food service customers as well as a large and a growing significant list of health care providers.

This issue will not go away, so you should arm yourself with all you can learn about DOP/DEHP and its potential dangers.

Of course, Omni International is continually updating its resource material. We will advise you in GLOVE LINES when any new material becomes available.

Today, we would like to refresh you with basic DOP/DEHP information as your customers may be requesting it in the future (or may have been in the past). Our "general" information is below. The information you see below is available as a separate information sheet and available on request from Omni International. Or, please visit our web site at www.OMNigloves.com for information on all our products.

Thanks for your concern regarding this combined issue. Please call us if we can assist you in any way.



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT DOP/DEHP

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 for phthalates to disrupt the human endocrine system or reproductive development has led to significant on going debate about their safety. Over eighty six hospitals and GPO's in more than 12 states have pledged to reduce the use of PVC and/or DEHP.