



# Statement

For Immediate Release

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## **HHS MOVES FORWARD WITH UNFOUNDED CLASSIFICATION OF FORMALDEHYDE**

*Department Ignores Recent Scientific Report*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 10, 2011) – *The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) National Toxicology Program (NTP) today released the 12th Report on Carcinogens (12th RoC). The new report includes a chapter that lists formaldehyde as a "known human carcinogen." The following statement about the 12th RoC can be attributed to Cal Dooley, CEO, American Chemistry Council.*

"We are extremely disappointed that HHS has moved forward with listing formaldehyde in its 12th RoC as a 'known human carcinogen.' By doing so, HHS ignored the recently released, independent, peer-review report from the National Research Council, which strongly questioned whether the scientific evidence supports the claim of human carcinogen for leukemia. Also, the World Health Organization indicates that normal human exposures do not present a risk of cancer.

"Inclusion in the RoC does not mean that formaldehyde presents any risk to human health. In fact, NTP itself states, '...Listing in the report does not establish that such substances present a risk to persons in their daily lives.'

"Because formaldehyde is used in many products – from building materials to pharmaceuticals – this unscientific decision by HHS could risk thousands of U.S. jobs. That is why this decision by the department is such an egregious contradiction of President Obama's pledge in a March 9, 2009, executive order that 'Science and the scientific process must inform and guide decisions of my Administration...'"

### **ABOUT FORMALDEHYDE**

Formaldehyde is a simple chemical compound made of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon, with the formula CH<sub>2</sub>O. Because of their versatility, formaldehyde-based technologies are used to produce a wide range of materials for residential construction, auto manufacturing, civilian and military aircraft equipment and health care applications. Products derived from formaldehyde have an extremely broad role in the economy, impacting the employment of 600,000 U.S. workers and indirectly impacting an additional three million people.

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*The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care<sup>®</sup>, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$720 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.*

