



# Statement

For Immediate Release

June 25, 2009

Contact: Kathryn St. John (703) 741-5818

Email: Kathryn\_St.John@americanchemistry.com

## LOW-BIRTH WEIGHT STUDIES COME TO CONTRADICTORY CONCLUSIONS

ARLINGTON, VA (June 25, 2009) – *The American Chemistry Council (ACC) today responded to a study conducted by Zhang et al., in China, published in the Journal of Pediatrics, that reports low birth weight in infants statistically correlated with phthalate exposure at birth. Importantly, the authors of the Chinese study are cautious about their conclusions. The report states that phthalate exposure “may be” a risk factor in low birth weight, and advises that the study “has some limitations.”*

*ACC Managing Director, Chris Bryant, issued the following statement:*

“Isolating a single cause from the host of influences that determine the birth weight of an infant is a daunting challenge for any scientist, and no responsible scientist would claim to have found an answer with a single study. One of the authors of the Chinese study stated that phthalates ‘might be’ associated with low birth weight, a proper caution considering that there have been several recent studies that appear to contradict these findings. A study by Wolff et al. (2009) in Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) and a study published in Human and Ecological Risk Assessment report no change in birth weight or other outcomes associated with phthalate exposure even though phthalate levels were unusually high.

“Phthalates are among the most thoroughly studied families of compounds in the world and have a long history of safe use. Phthalates do not migrate out of products easily. Also, they do not build up in the body. Phthalates begin to breakdown within minutes and are quickly metabolized.”

###

<http://www.americanchemistry.com>

*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 \$689 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.*



