



Statement

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DTSC'S PRIORITY PRODUCT DESIGNATION FOR SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM INSULATION LACKS SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND UNDERCUTS CLIMATE POLICY GOALS

WASHINGTON (May 2, 2018) – *The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced its decision to list spray polyurethane foam insulation (SPF) materials containing unreacted methylene diphenyl diisocyanates (MDI), a key component in SPF, as a [Priority Product](#) under the state's [Safer Consumer Products \(SCP\) Program](#). The American Chemistry Council (ACC) issued the following statement in response, which may be attributed to [Steve Russell](#), vice president of plastics:*

“ACC strongly disagrees with DTSC’s decision to list SPF systems containing unreacted MDI as a Priority Product. The decision lacks scientific justification, was not supported by the record, and will lead to an inefficient use of public and private resources. Since SPF was first suggested for this program more than four years ago, industry has voluntarily provided extensive scientific data and other materials that demonstrate SPF is not an appropriate choice for the SCP regulation. SPF does not meet the minimum listing criteria set by the Department’s own regulations. ACC is disappointed that the Department disregarded product stewardship initiatives that already exist and declined constructive efforts by industry to develop more effective alternative approaches to SPF regulation.

“Instead of the current approach, ACC urges California to support policies that capitalize on how SPF helps in the fight against climate change. Taking advantage of SPF’s environmental benefits will help California achieve the energy efficiency and climate change goals mandated by [Governor Brown](#), and California’s landmark climate change legislation – [AB 32](#).

“California homeowners and builders can and should continue to rely on SPF products. Installed SPF, which is chemically inert, is an effective and proven building material with a 40-year track record of success. Each year an estimated 10 percent of California homes are built with SPF insulation, resulting in energy efficiencies such that homes insulated with SPF could help eliminate 800,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually, the equivalent of removing 2,700 cars from California’s roads each year.

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“Health and safety are priorities for the polyurethanes industry. Our commitment to [product stewardship and partnerships supports regulatory compliance and responsible industry practices](#). We have worked closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, US Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission for more than eight years to share data and improve the availability of information and resources for our [members](#)’ products.”

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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®; common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues; and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$768 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is among the largest exporters in the nation, accounting for fourteen percent of all U.S. goods 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.

