

Introduction to the ACC Hydrocarbon Solvents Panel

The Hydrocarbon Solvents Panel of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) was established in 1995 to address health, safety, occupational, and environmental issues pertaining to modern hydrocarbon solvents. The Panel sponsors and supports scientific research, addresses regulatory issues, and works to ensure that solvents continue to be recognized as important components in a wide range of commercial products and applications, such as coating formulations, adhesives, dry cleaning, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

Over the years, the Panel has undertaken numerous projects, including developing a training guidance manual for determining safe occupational exposure levels (i.e. reciprocal calculation procedure, or RCP); developing a guidance manual for the safe use and handling of flammable and oxygenated hydrocarbon solvents in industrial settings; and, sponsoring and publishing studies characterizing the effects reported with hydrocarbon solvents.¹ The Panel also has worked extensively with OECD members on the nomenclature and characterization of hydrocarbon solvents.²

The Panel continuously monitors state, federal, and international regulatory developments. The Panel is currently engaged in such activities as: addressing air quality, VOC, and analytical method issues related to the California Air Resources Board; monitoring occupational exposure issues; monitoring NTP-sponsored research; providing input to Canadian authorities on relevant risk assessments under the Chemicals Management Plan (CMP3); and monitoring the various testing needs outlined by other regulations like EU REACH.

The Panel maintains working relationships with US, European, and Brazilian (ABIQUIM) trade associations, where it coordinates on issues and industry positions of mutual interest. It is eager to build new global alliances to ensure its wealth of knowledge and experience can be leveraged in regions with new or evolving regulations. Given its history of testing and research, the Panel plans to support data access requests from countries with current or emerging “REACH-like” regulatory programs to ensure health and environmental safety of the chemistry.

Members of the ACC Hydrocarbon Solvents Panel include Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP., CITGO Petroleum Corporation, ExxonMobil Chemical Company, and Sasol Chemicals (USA) LLC.

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¹Although the Panel has sponsored the publication of many individual studies, the following is an example of a comprehensive review article sponsored by the Panel: Mckee, RH, Adenuga, MD, Carrillo, JC, (2015). “Characterization of the toxicological hazards of hydrocarbon solvents.” *Critical Reviews in Toxicology*. 45(4); 273-365. <http://informahealthcare.com/doi/pdf/10.3109/10408444.2015.1016216>

²The Panel assisted with the development of the following harmonized method and guidance document for characterizing hydrocarbon solvents: OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) (2016). Environmental Directorate. Joint Meeting of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology. “OECD Guidance for Characterising Hydrocarbon Solvents for Assessment Purposes.” Unclassified. ENV/JM/MONO(2015)52. Series on Testing and Assessment. No. 230. January 8, 2016. 18 pages. [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2015\)52&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2015)52&doclanguage=en)