

Product Information Bulletin 278

NTP Listing of Styrene and Plasti-Fab Products

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The U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's National Toxicology Program (NTP) listed the chemical **styrene** as a substance *reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen* in the 12th Edition of the Report on Carcinogens (RoC).

The National Institute of Health Sciences (NIEHS) provides the following clarification on its website relative to the relationship between styrene and polystyrene:

“Styrene should not be confused with polystyrene (styrofoam). Although styrene, a liquid, is used to make polystyrene, which is a solid plastic, we do not believe that people are at risk from using polystyrene products. The listing in the RoC is specific for styrene and is based on studies of workers exposed to high levels of styrene in the workplace.”

It should be clearly noted that NTP listed the chemical styrene, **but not polystyrene**. Polystyrene is not and was never considered by the NTP to be a health risk. As noted on the NTP website, polystyrene is very different from styrene and does not present a health risk to the public.

Expanded polystyrene (EPS) is a safe, efficient and performance oriented solution for a wide variety of end uses including building insulation, geotechnical engineering applications and protective packaging. EPS insulation is a sustainable component in Plasti-Fab EPS-insulating building systems.