



Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC)

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**Styrene Information and Research Center Statement on Freedom of Information Act
Request to the Department of Health and Human Services**

The Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC) is reviewing a compact disk received in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for documents relating to the possible inclusion of styrene in the National Toxicology Program's *12th Report on Carcinogens (RoC)*.

On Sept. 19, 2008, SIRC legal counsel Keller and Heckman LLP asked for "records, reports, transcripts, minutes, appendixes, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, or other documents which were made available to or prepare for or by the Styrene Expert Panel" in conjunction with the NTP's development of the next *RoC*.

Kim L. Minnemann, FOIA coordinator for HHS, responded Oct. 20, 2008, with a package that included a compact disk (CD) containing audio of a July 20-21, 2008, meeting where the NTP panel recommended listing styrene as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" in the next *RoC*. SIRC is reviewing the CD, which was the only item in the package that SIRC did not already have.

The *RoC* is a congressionally mandated listing of "known" and "reasonably anticipated to be" human carcinogens; the HHS secretary delegates its preparation to the NTP. *RoC* listings carry no automatic regulatory implications, but frequently are cited in regulatory decision-making. Styrene was among a number of chemicals nominated in 2004 for possible inclusion in the *12th RoC*.

(Note to editors: SIRC's correspondence to and from the HHS FOIA coordinator is available upon request to SIRC communications advisor Joe Walker, jwalker@safetysafetyequipment.org or 703-491-3301.)

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