

Position Paper

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A Bibliographic Review on Mineral Oils.

CEPI welcomes the literature review “Oral Toxicity of Mineral Oils and Related Compounds” by Professor Atte von Wright as an important and useful contribution to European Food Safety Authority’s (EFSA) current investigations on mineral oils.

Professor von Wright has delved into the MOSH part of the issue, including low weight spirits and covering, amongst others, the aspects concerning their definition and toxicity.

The main conclusions strongly suggest the need to reconsider Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) values in terms of a significant increase of them and this is supported by the 22 bibliographic references reviewed. In particular, results on the rat strain used for the particular study that backs current limits are not confirmed on different strains of rats or other species of experimental animals nor by the results of other available pieces of research and examinations made on humans. Professor von Wright also tackles the consumer exposure aspects and mentions other existing sources of these types of compounds, questioning the significance of recycled paper-based packaging material in the overall exposure to mineral oils. CEPI strongly adheres to these points of view and furthermore reminds of the actual consumption of food packed in paper-based packaging; one person would very seldom eat one kilogram of a single food item such as dry rice per day (as referred to by Biedermann and Grob, 2010), and ADIs for any given substance should reflect this using instead a more realistic exposure based on an average consumption of representative food items (usually from tens to hundreds of grams rather than kilograms) potentially containing the substance in question.

In conclusion, CEPI requests that EFSA evaluates the significance of recycled paper-based packaging material to the overall exposure to mineral oils and mineral spirits against the background of other existing sources of such compounds, based on realistic exposure scenarios, and takes into account the latest toxicological data related to their actual health risks.

More details: <http://www.cepi.org/content/default.asp?PageID=558&DocID=35181>

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