Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) Systems Containing Unreacted Diisoscyanates

What is the Priority Product?
Any unreacted SPF Systems (including drums, kits, and cans of spray polyurethane foam materials) for insulation, filling, sealing, roofing, or other uses that contain select diisocyanates.

Why was this product chosen?
Diisocyanates are known asthmagens, capable of causing asthma or triggering severe asthma attacks in sensitive populations. They are also skin and respiratory irritants, and sensitizers. Fatal exposures to diisocynates have been documented.

Are cured, rigid insulation foam products included in the proposed Priority Product?
No. Cured, rigid foam insulation materials do not meet the definition of the proposed Priority Product in the profile and the draft regulatory concepts prepared for the Initial Priority Product workshops.. The products are narrowly defined as spray polyurethane foam systems with unreacted diisocyanates. Therefore, products included must be materials for spraying to make foam. The specific time window when vapors, aerosols, and particulates containing unreacted diisocyanates may exposes workers described in the profile starts from product application via spraying to curing of the foam. Rigid foam materials that are previously installed and cured have passed the stage of the foam-making process of concern described in the profile.

Does the proposed Priority Product include other polyurethane products?
No. Polyurethane materials that are not intended for spraying and making foam for insulation, roofing, and filling are not included. The proposed Priority Product identifies only spray polyurethane foam systems used for insulation, roofing, and filling small gaps and holes. Products intended to be captured in the product definition must (1) be used to make foam for insulation, roofing, and filling, (2) be materials for spraying in place, and (3) contain "unreacted" diisocyanates that may be released during and for some time after spraying the foam product. Products that are not intended for spraying to make foam for insulation, roofing, and filling are not captured in this proposed Priority Product definition. Specifically, polyurethane materials such as adhesives, sealants, elastomers, and paints are not foam materials for insulation, roofing, and filling, and thus are not included.

Who is potentially at risk for exposure from this product?
Workers who use SPF systems for insulation, roofing and filling are potentially at risk. Do-it-yourselfers (DIYers) who use this product may not be aware of the potential exposure risks, nor the engineering controls, and personal protective equipment required for professional workers. Spills, vapors, aerosols, and particulates may also expose family members of DIYers, if they are in or near the worksite and engineering controls are not used.

What are the major routes of exposure?
The major routes of exposure include (1) inhalation of the vapors, aerosols, and particulates containing unreacted diisocyanates, and (2) skin and eye contact during application, trimming, and cleanup.

What are the major routes of exposure?
The major routes of exposure are inhalation of the vapor and aerosols and skin contact during handling and clean up.

What other names is the chemical known by?
Diisocyanates, sometimes called isocyanates, are a class of low-molecular-weight aromatic and aliphatic compounds. The most common diisocyantes in SPF systems include methylene bisphenyl isocyanates (MDI) and hexamethylene diisocyanates (HDI). Some SPF systems on the market today are hybrid systems (i.e., SPF materials containing polyurethane-based coatings, sealants, or adhesives) and are likely to contain toluene diisocyantes (TDI).

What other government entity regulates this product?
Products with diisocyanates can have adverse impacts throughout their life cycle: on people, sensitive populations and the environment. Various regulatory programs address one or more of these impacts – air or water impacts or occupational exposures, for example - but *not all of the impacts or exposures.* DTSC's Safer Consumer Products Program addresses impacts from a product *throughout its entire life cycle*. For diisocyanates, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health or Cal/OSHA requires engineering controls and has established air exposure limits.

What are the symptoms of exposure?
The symptoms include persistent or recurring eye irritation, nasal congestion, dry or sore throat, cold-like symptoms, cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, or chest tightness.

How do I reduce exposure risk if I continue to use the product?
You can reduce exposure through proper exhaust and ventilation and restricting areas with diisocyanates to only essential workers. Workers should wear protective clothing with full-face respirators**.**

Should I dispose of the product? How can I properly dispose of it?
For disposal of unused SPF product materials, consult with your local Household Hazardous Waste facility or solid waste management company. Cured or rigid foam that is already installed is not being proposed as a Priority Product, and does not pose the hazard as described in the product profile.