



Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC)

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**Styrene Information and Research Center
Statement on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Process**

At the request of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC) in 1999 submitted scientific data summaries and assessments of the results of state-of-the-art independent, peer-reviewed research and literature reviews of some 500 toxicological studies to help inform the EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) review of styrene. The IRIS review, which probably will be finalized in 2010, is expected to include an EPA classification for styrene's cancer-causing potential.

Some of the reports SIRC provided for EPA's consideration came from studies SIRC has commissioned since the association was founded in 1988. Over the years since then, the styrene industry has committed \$15 million-plus through SIRC to improve the scientific database on styrene's health and environmental effects. SIRC has consulted closely with EPA throughout this period in developing research protocols, and to keep the agency apprised of the data, in order to aid the agency's evaluations of styrene.

All of SIRC's participation in the IRIS process has been and continues to be transparent, cooperative and supportive of the agency's efforts. EPA, itself, has described SIRC's involvement as an innovative way for industry to assist the regulatory process. The agency staff currently is using resource materials that SIRC has furnished. SIRC continues to provide pertinent new data on styrene for EPA's consideration, as it becomes available.

Although IRIS *will* determine whether styrene should be classified as a carcinogen and, if so, at what level, IRIS reviews *do not* normally include information on exposure to a chemical in real-life situations. Therefore, in addition to working with EPA on the IRIS review, SIRC sponsored a risk assessment of styrene by the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis at the Harvard School of Public Health. A 12-member, "blue ribbon" panel examined real-life exposure routes to styrene and interpreted the risks they may pose. EPA has access to this report, which was published in 2002 in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health*.