

**The styrene industry is proactive when it comes to worker safety and offers guidance on exposure limits for workplace settings.**

A comprehensive, peer-reviewed toxicological risk assessment in 2019 confirmed SIRC’s recommendations for an 8-hour workplace exposure limit of **20 ppm** (parts per million). See [styrene.org/riskassessment](http://styrene.org/riskassessment).

**CURRENT OSHA STANDARD**



**100 PPM**

In the 1980s, OSHA established a styrene workplace exposure limit of 100 ppm—a regulation that is still in place today.

**VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE: 1992**



**50 PPM**

In the 1990s, SIRC evaluated data on the effects of styrene exposure on the nervous system (neurotoxicity) and led an industry initiative endorsing a workplace exposure limit of 50 ppm.

**VOLUNTARY INITIATIVE: 2011**



**20 PPM**

Industry toxicological studies examined potential neurotoxic effects that may occur below 50 ppm, leading styrene producers to voluntarily recommend in 2011 that workday styrene exposure be limited to 20 ppm.

**The possible health effects of styrene exposure for workers in facilities that make or use styrene depend on the concentration level and length of exposure.**

A substantial body of scientific evidence on human health, primarily gathered in occupational settings, indicates the nervous system is the most sensitive target of chronic styrene exposure.



The concerns for adverse health effects are most specifically on impacts to hearing and color vision.

Noise can be a compounding factor, so noise reduction measures should be in place if noise levels are above 85 decibels and the occupational exposure limit is more than 20 ppm.

Since 1987, SIRC has invested more than \$25 million in research to better understand the potential for styrene to impact human health.