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## California again aims to list styrene under Prop 65

[Background: California EPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) today announced it intends to add styrene to the list of chemicals "known to the state of California to cause cancer" under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, better known as Proposition 65 (Prop 65). OEHHA said its decision to add styrene is based on the chemical's June 2011 listing as "reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen" in the U.S. National Toxicology Program's (NTP's) 12<sup>th</sup> *Report on Carcinogens (RoC)*. Using NTP as an "authoritative body," OEHHA says styrene should be listed. This action is distinct from previous attempts to list styrene under the "labor code" mechanism, which were withdrawn by OEHHA in 2013 and 2014. Today's review of styrene under the authoritative body listing mechanism stems from a 2013 settlement agreement in litigation brought by the Sierra Club against OEHHA.]

*The following statement concerning the OEHHA announcement may be attributed in whole or in part to Jack Snyder, executive director of the Styrene Information and Research Center (SIRC).*

**Washington, D.C., Feb. 27, 2015** – "While we had anticipated this announcement from OEHHA, we have concerns and questions regarding California's intention to add styrene to the Prop 65 list. Evaluation is needed to clarify whether or not the criteria used in NTP's Report on Carcinogens adequately aligns with and supports the Prop 65 listing criteria under the "authoritative body" mechanism.

"This announcement does not automatically add styrene to the Prop 65, but rather initiates comment and review periods. In cooperation with our styrene industry partner organizations, we will develop a response and file comments on this proposed California action, which we believe has the potential to result in unnecessary public alarm concerning the safety of the thousands of products made from styrene and styrene-based resins. Consumers can and should continue to use those products with confidence in their safety.

"For more information on styrene, how it is manufactured and used, its safety for consumers and industry employees, and current research, visit [www.styrene.org](http://www.styrene.org) and [www.youknowstyrene.org](http://www.youknowstyrene.org). For information on the safety of polystyrene food services products, visit [www.plasticsfoodservicefacts.com](http://www.plasticsfoodservicefacts.com)."

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