



Statement

For Immediate Release

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AMERICAN CHEMISTRY COUNCIL SUPPORTS EUROPEAN UNION DIRECTIVE ON FLAME RETARDANT SAFETY

ARLINGTON, VA (October 18, 2005) – In a decision published on October 15, 2005, the European Union (EU) exempted Deca-BDE, a highly-effective flame retardant, from the EU’s Directive on the Restriction of Hazardous Substances.

The American Chemistry Council (ACC) welcomes the EU’s decision which was based on solid scientific principles, including a “weight of the evidence” approach, evaluation of substances in the context of potential risk and an independent external peer review process.

The EU’s decision was the result of a ten year risk assessment, following an intensive review of 588 studies during which credible data was sought and evaluated on relevance, quality and significance of the data. Results of the study clearly show “there is at present no need for measures to reduce the risks for consumers beyond those which are being applied already,” stated the EU Directive. This is not an exemption in perpetuity for Deca-BDE. The Directive will continue to require ongoing studies: “Should new evidence lead to a different conclusion of the risk assessment, this decision would be re-examined and amended,” according to the Directive.

“This is a good decision based on the collection and evaluation of credible scientific information,” said ACC’s CEO and President Jack Gerard. “The ACC commends the EU for continuing to be mindful and protective of human health and the environment.”

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people's lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a \$516 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation's economy. It is one of the nation's largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies invest more in research and development than any other business sector. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation's critical infrastructure.