

From: Executive Director
Sent: Friday, August 26, 2011 3:47 PM
To: +All HQ Employees
Subject: Building Update - August 26, 2011

Prop 65 Signs at HQ building - Letter of Explanation

This is to clarify information sent to you last week that generated questions from some of you.

In August 2011, you may have noticed signs on the entrances of the 450 N Street headquarters building that say: "Warning: Chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm may be found in the facility. California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.6"

These Proposition 65 signs were placed at the entrances by Department of General Services. Proposition 65 warning signs were reportedly posted as a result of the discovery of benzene and carbon disulfide – both of which are on the Proposition 65 list – during odor investigations by DGS and their industrial hygiene consultants, La Croix Davis (LCD). BOE's industrial hygiene consultant, Hygiene Technologies International, Inc. (HTI), agrees that these signs should be posted if indeed these compounds are present or are ingredients in products used by DGS in the BOE HQ building.

In California, Cal-OSHA is the State Agency that establishes a Permissible Exposure Limits (PEL) for benzene and carbon disulfide at 1 parts per million (ppm) and 4 ppm, respectively. DGS and their consultants detected benzene and carbon disulfide at very low levels.

The highest result for Benzene was 1.78 parts per billion by volume (ppbv).

Carbon disulfide was detected in only one sample; however, the type of sample collected produced a result that measures emissions from the concrete surface and cannot be compared to the Cal-OSHA PEL, which is for airborne concentrations. Regardless, the level detected was very low.

To understand the meaning of this information in proper scale, the difference between parts per million (ppm) and parts per billion (ppb) is significant. To simplify things a bit, 1 ppm = 1000 ppb. To put this in perspective, the population of China is slightly over 1 billion people, a ppb is equivalent to 1 person out of the entire population of the country; while a ppm would be equivalent to 1000 people out of the entire population.

As reported by DGS, the detected benzene levels were well below the applicable Cal-OSHA PEL. Similarly, there is no expectation that airborne carbon disulfide would be detected at levels that approached the Cal-OSHA PEL of 4 parts per million (ppm), even though the result previously recorded by the DGS consultant cannot be directly compared to that limit.

BOE's consultant, HTI, is in agreement with these findings and monitors the indoor air quality in the building to assure the health and safety requirements are met for all staff where concerns have been raised for benzene and carbon disulfide detected in the building.

As a reference, please check this weblink and FAQs as related to Proposition 65

<http://www.oehha.ca.gov/prop65/p65faq.html>

Should you have any additional health concerns, please reference the report as listed on the BOE Building Assessment website at

http://www.boe.ca.gov/info/pdf/testing_reports/F21_Odor_2011-05-24_Rpt.pdf

and provide a copy as needed to your personal care physician for you to discuss with your physician. Thank you for your time on this important issue.