2-Ethylhexanoic Acid (2-EHA)



 $C_8H_{16}O_2$

$$H_3C$$
 OH

Summary of Health Effects

2-Ethylhexanoic Acid (2-EHA) affects the reproductive system of animals and may affect how babies develop.

How is 2-EHA used?

2-EHA is used to make lubricants, detergents and polyvinyl chloride (PVC).¹

Toxicity: What are its health effects?

The National Toxicology Program concluded that there is sufficient animal evidence that 2-EHA is a developmental toxicant.²

A 90-day sub-chronic study observed that when pregnant rats were exposed to high doses, there were increases in incidences of skeletal and visceral variations in fetuses.³ The same study found that maternal toxicity (abortion of fetus) occurred in pregnant rabbits that were exposed to 125 milligrams per kilogram per day.³

The Global Harmonized Classification for Labeling (GHS) categorized 2-EHA as a category 2 reproductive toxicant.⁴

Exposure: How can a person come in contact with it?

A person can come in contact with 2-EHA by breathing in contaminated air, eating contaminated food, drinking contaminated water, or from skin contact with consumer products.¹

The Danish Ministry of the Environment detected 2-EHA in some children's products, including wooden toys, baby products, hobby products, and mouthable plastic toys. ^{5,6} The Hazardous Substance Database reports that 2-EHA and its derivatives are used in the manufacture of lubricants and detergents. ¹

The 2014 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) report did not include data for 2-EHA.

References

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