

METHYL CHLORIDE (Group 3)

A. Evidence for carcinogenicity to humans (*inadequate*)

In a small study of 852 butyl rubber manufacturing workers exposed to methyl chloride, there was a total of 30 deaths from cancer, which was fewer than expected on the basis of US mortality data. The study is uninformative for assessing the carcinogenicity of methyl chloride¹.

B. Evidence for carcinogenicity to animals (*inadequate*)

A study in which methyl chloride was tested for carcinogenicity in mice and rats by inhalation was reported only in an abstract and could not be evaluated¹.

C. Other relevant data

No data were available on the genetic and related effects of methyl chloride in humans.

Methyl chloride induced sister chromatid exchanges and mutation but not DNA strand breaks in human lymphocytes *in vitro*. It enhanced transformation of virus-infected Syrian hamster embryo cells. It induced chromosomal aberrations in plants and was mutagenic to bacteria².

References

¹IARC Monographs, 41, 161-186, 1987

²IARC Monographs, Suppl. 6, 389-390, 1987