
Executive summary

On request of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, the Health Council of the Netherlands evaluates the effects on the reproduction of substances at the workplace. The Health Council's Committee for Compounds Toxic to Reproduction recommends to classify compounds toxic to reproduction according to the Directive 93/21/EEC of the European Union. In the present report the committee has reviewed ethylene oxide.

The committee's recommendations are:

- For effects on fertility, the committee recommends that ethylene oxide should be classified in category 2 (*Substances which should be regarded as if they impair fertility in humans*) and labelled with R60 (*may impair fertility*).
- For developmental toxicity, the committee recommends not to classify ethylene oxide due to a lack of appropriate human and animal data.
- For effects during lactation, the committee is of the opinion that due to the lack of appropriate data ethylene oxide should not be labelled.