
Executive summary

In the present report the Health Council of the Netherlands reviewed formic acid. Formic acid is a colorless fuming liquid with a highly pungent, penetrating odor. The primary use of formic acid worldwide is as an anti-bacterial agent in animal feeds and as a silage additive. In addition, formic acid has been used as a chemical intermediate in leather processing, rubber manufacture and textile industry.

This report is part of a series, in which the Health Council evaluates the effects of substances on reproduction, at request of the Minister of Social Affairs and Employment. It mainly concerns substances to which man can be occupationally exposed. The Committee for Compounds toxic to reproduction, a committee of the Health Council, evaluates the effects on male and female fertility and on the development of the progeny. Moreover, the committee considers the effects of a substance on lactation and effects on the progeny via lactation.

Recommendations for classification by the committee are made in accordance with Directive 93/21/EEC of the European Union. The committee's recommendations for formic acid are:

- for effects on fertility, the committee recommends not classifying formic acid due to a lack of appropriate data.
 - for developmental toxicity, the committee recommends not classifying formic acid due to a lack of appropriate data.
 - the committee is of the opinion that a lack of appropriate data precludes the labelling of formic acid for effects during lactation.
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