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## Executive summary

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In the present report the Health Council of the Netherlands reviewed methanol. Methanol is used as feedstock in the synthesis of various compounds, amongst others formaldehyde, methyl methacrylate and methylamines. It has been used as a solvent, paints thinner and as antifreeze.

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 the 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 methanol are:

- for effects on fertility, the committee recommends not classifying methanol due to a lack of appropriate data.
  - for developmental toxicity, the committee recommends classifying methanol in category 2 (*substances which should be regarded as if they cause developmental toxicity in humans*) and to label methanol with T;R61.
  - the committee is of the opinion that a lack of appropriate data precludes the labelling of methanol for effects during lactation.
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