

Ammonium perfluorooctanoate (APFO) is a polymerization aid used in the production of many Dyneon fluoropolymers. For many years, it has been known that APFO does not easily degrade in the environment and is not easily eliminated from the body.

APFO has been extensively studied to establish dose-response relationships. In addition to laboratory studies, 3M has been monitoring the health of employees potentially exposed to APFO since 1976. The exposures required to produce adverse health effects in laboratory studies are much higher than those encountered in the production and handling of APFO. Careful monitoring and scientific study of workers exposed to APFO does not suggest human health risk to occupationally exposed populations.

Dyneon fluoropolymer dispersion products contain relatively small quantities of APFO, generally less than 0.5 percent. Therefore, the relative health risk from APFO exposure when handling and processing Dyneon dispersion products is negligible. Even so, because APFO can be absorbed and reside in the body for extended time periods (years), care should be taken to limit direct contact and exposure to airborne material.

The product material safety data sheet (MSDS) provides guidance for the safe handling of Dyneon dispersion products. Exposure should be controlled to avoid direct contact, and airborne exposure should be kept under the Threshold Limit Value® of 0.01 mg APFO per m<sup>3</sup> of air, as set by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH). Careful observance of appropriate precautionary and exposure control measures when using Dyneon products should alleviate any concern about potential health effects.



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