

PARA-DICHLOROBENZENE (PDB)

WHAT ARE PDBs?

⇒ Para-dichlorobenzene (or 1,4-dichlorobenzene) is a chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbon compound used as a fumigant insecticide and repellent.



⇒ It is primarily used in mothballs and similar products to protect clothing from moths. Uses for individual PDB products vary widely.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The primary exposure to PDB is from breathing contaminated indoor air. Acute exposure to PDBs via inhalation in humans results in irritation to the eyes, skin, and throat. It can cause a burning sensation to the skin after prolonged contact. Chronic exposure to PDBs by inhalation in humans results in effects on the liver, skin, and CNS. The OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for PDB is 450 mg/m³.

RECENTLY ON CAMPUS

Citadel Environmental Services, Inc. collected area air samples in various chemical storage areas within the HLS building to assess concentrations of volatile organic compounds (VOCs);

the rooms tested were: **HLS-214, HLS-218, HLS-228, HLS-236, HLS-239, HLS-240, HLS-243, and HLS-244**. PDBs were identified in the air samples collected in HLS-228, HLS-236, HLS-240, and HLS-244. All results for PDBs were well below the OSHA PEL of 450 mg/m³. Furthermore, all other VOCs identified were in trace amounts and well below their respective regulatory exposure limits, and thus do not pose an indoor air quality concern.

Additional information on PDBs can be found here:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/hlthef/dich-ben.html>

<http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/PDBtech.html>



Should you have any questions on this summarized information, or other information related to PDBs, please call Safety & Risk Management at (909) 382-4070.