

Focus on...

Working Safely with Isocyanates

Many workers – especially in auto body repair, foam manufacturing, and some types of construction – are exposed to isocyanates, a component of many polyurethane systems.



Photo: Worker applying spray-on polyurethane truck bed liner

Breathing in isocyanates, or even getting these chemicals on skin, can cause or worsen asthma, a chronic disease.

Isocyanates are used in automotive paint, spray-on truck bed liners, adhesives, orthopedic casts, shipping foams, polyurethane cushioning, industrial coatings, and in spray polyurethane foam (SPF) used to insulate walls and roofs.

A revised [fact sheet](#) and new [web page](#) by the [Hazard Evaluation System and Information Service \(HESIS\)](#) provide information on health hazards from isocyanates

and ways to minimize workplace exposure.

Resources

[Isocyanates](#) – web page

[Isocyanates: Working Safely](#) – fact sheet

[OHB](#) improves California worker health and safety through prevention activities. We gather information on job hazards, test new approaches to prevent worker injury and illness, and help make changes at the workplace.

Email OHW@cdph.ca.gov with feedback about this update or change of address.

