EXTRUDED POLYSTYRENE FOAM ASSOCIATION

750 National Press Building
529 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20045
Phone: (202) 591-2466
Fax: (202) 591-2445
Website: www.xpsa.com

September 16, 2016

XPSA Reaffirms Safety of Flame Retardant in Polystyrene Insulation:

Recent Study on House Dust Limited and Flawed

A recently published study, "Consumer Product Chemicals in Indoor Dust: A Quantitative Meta-analysis of U.S. Studies," in the September 2016 issue of the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*, is limited and flawed, according to John Heinze, PhD, a consultant to the Extruded Polystyrene Foam Association (XPSA). Dr. Heinze, a specialist in risk and safety assessment, reviewed the study and determined that the data analysis presents a problematic assessment of chemicals found in household dust, and in particular, with regard to flame retardants (FR) such as hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), which is used in polystyrene insulation.

The study raises concerns needlessly, showing in fact, low exposures to HBCD of less than 0.4 parts per million in dust. Government studies conducted by the European Commission, Health Canada and in Australia and New Zealand have specifically evaluated HBCD exposure from all sources, including house dust, and concluded that current uses of HBCD, including polystyrene insulation, do not pose a significant health risk to homeowners or the general public.

In addition, the study considers only potential hazard properties and fails to consider the chemicals' determination of safety, also known as the risk, which is found through an analysis of both a chemical's hazard properties and the margin of exposure.

Furthermore, the study classifies all flame retardants as "replacement flame retardants," but fails to define the term. HBCD is not a replacement FR. The study does not actually mention FR replacements which have been recently identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Design for the Environment (DfE) Program for use in building insulation.

The Extruded Polystyrene Foam Insulation Association (XPSA) represents all major extruded polystyrene foam (XPS) insulation manufacturers in North America. The association and its members are committed to the safety and integrity of XPS products. They invite interested parties seeking additional information to visit XPSA online at www.xpsa.com or to email office@xpsa.com.

Media contact:
Kelsey Dentinger
202-207-1105