

Thermal paper developers

Thermal paper is a special fine type of printing paper which will change colour when exposed to heat. It is extensively used in inexpensive devices such as credit card terminals.¹

The paper is coated with a dye and a developer, which change colour when exposed to heat. The colour former - often a pH sensitive leuco dye² - will shift to black or various colors when the matrix solidifies.

Figure 1: Transformation between leuco and a coloured form of crystal violet lactone



Thermal paper developers

The developer should be slightly acidic, and the substance predominantly used has been bisphenol A (BPA) because of its stability and heat resistance.

However, concerns raised surrounding the endocrine disrupting properties of BPA have led to replacements being produced.² The most popular up until recently has been bisphenol S (BPS). However, this compound has also raised concern and was added to the list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) in January 2023 (as 4,4'-sulphonyldiphenol).



Figure 2: Bisphenol A (BPA)

Figure 3: Bisphenol S (BPS)

Several alternative compounds have been suggested and applied in recent years. Among them the sulfonamide compound Pergafast © 201 (3-(3-Tosylureido)phenyl 4-Methylbenzenesulfonate).

In the German market, Pergafast © 201 appears to have become the major substituent for BPA as a thermal paper developer. It is the dominating developer in tickets (e.g., for public traffic offences), which are usually of a higher paper quality. Other similar compounds like BTUM (4,4 -Bis(p-toluenesulfonylaminocarbonylamino)diphenylmethane) and the Urea-urethane complex UU have been used. Also, several BPS derivatives have been used or are proposed.

A 2018/2019 German market analysis (Eckardt et al.¹) states that the use of BPA has been falling since 2017. Today the major chemical in thermal papers is BPS, in place of BPA. Other BPS derivatives known as D8, D-90, BPS-MAE and TGSA (found mainly in adhesive labels) have also been growing steadily since 2017.

Major applications of Bisphenol A



Product listing

BPS 2,2'-diallyl (TG-SA)

15400.18



41481-66-7

Chiron No.	Name	Structure	CAS
	Sulfonamide/Urea thermal paper		
P15858.21	Pergafast® 201		232938-43-1
P15888.21	втим	Cyi, CO Cit	151882-81-4
P15956.42	UU (Urea-Urethane complex)		321860-75-7
Chiron No.	Name	Structure	CAS
	Bisphenol thermal paper developers		
P12534.12	BPS	но	80-09-1
P12535.12	2,4-BPS	OH OH	5397-34-2
P15401.15	BPS-MAE	но—	97042-18-7
P15398.19	BPS-MPE	J- J- J- M	63134-33-8
P14403.15	BPS 4-isopropyl ether (D-8 developer)	ю	95235-30-6
		НО	

Product listing

15576.X

D90



191680-83-8

Chiron No.	Name	Structure	CAS
	Bisphenol thermal paper developers		
P12520.20	Bisphenol AP	HO OH	1571-75-1
15575.13	BPF-ortho	OH OH	2467-02-9
P12526.13	BPF	HO	620-92-8
P12537.18	BPZ	OH OH	843-55-0
12523.17	BPC (DMBPA)	OH OH	79-97-0

Chiron No.	Name	Structure	CAS
	Other phenol thermal paper developers		
15578.24	2,4-Bis(1-phenylethyl)phenol		2772-45-4
n/a	3,5-Bis(α-methylbenzyl)salicylic acid	100	53721-15-6

Product listing



Chiron No.	Name	Structure	CAS
	Other phenol thermal paper developers		
10211.14	Benzyl 4-hydroxybenzoate (Benzyl- paraben)	HO	94-18-8
1423.10	4-tert-Butylphenol	ОН	98-54-4
15577.7	Gallic acid	HO OH OH	149-91-7
15579.15	3,5-Bis-tert-butylsalicylic acid	ОН	19715-19-6
1808.12	Biphenyl-4-ol (p-phenylphenol)	OH	92-69-3



These substances pose potential impacts on both human health and the environment.

SVHC identifies chemicals equivalent to carcinogens, mutagens and reprotoxicants, which are very persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic.

Review more by downloading our SVHC Product listing.

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Also see

BMF 103 - Bisphenols

Though their health effects are still debated, there is concern about bisphenols and their effects on human health and the environment.

It is thought that the synthetic chemical, BPA, weakly mimics the human hormone oestrogen, potentially causing adverse health effects.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has raised concerns about BPA because it is a 'reproductive, developmental, and systemic toxicant in animal studies and is weakly oestrogenic'.



Learn more about the applications, concerns and regulations associated with Bisphenols

DOWNLOAD NOW

Or, follow this link: www.chiron.no/en/documentation/resources/environmental/bmf-103-bisphenols/

References

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