

MICROGLASS FIBERS CONFIRMED SAFE, POSE NO HEALTH RISK

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has lowered the classification of glass wool (including microglass fiber air filtration media):

From: Group 2B – Possibly Carcinogenic to Humans

To: Group 3 – Not Classifiable as to Carcinogenicity to Humans

The IARC action was the result of a review of epidemiologic studies published over the last 15 years which found no evidence of increased risks of lung cancer or cancer of the lining of body cavities from occupational exposure during manufacture of these fibers and inadequate evidence overall of any cancer risk.

The public reacted with great concern when IARC classified glass wool as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" (Group 2B) in 1987. Much debate took place by users and manufacturers of air filters as to whether the use of air filters made with microglass fiber media was safe. This change in classification by IARC confirms that microglass fibers used in high efficiency air filtration media, insulation and other products are safe for workers and consumers when proper work practices and installation methods are followed.