ROHO DRY FLOATATION Cushion Toxicity

When people ask or talk about LATEX TOXICITY what they are really asking or talking about is a severe allergic reaction to proteins found in Natural Rubber. Natural Rubber comes from the sap, a white milky fluid (latex), of the Hevea brasiliensis or rubber tree. The proteins are Mother Nature’s way of keeping the sap from coagulating as it moves through the tree carrying moisture and nutrients from roots to leaves and back. All products made from Natural Rubber contain some amount of these proteins. The amount depends on how the latex was processed and how well the products made from it were leached and washed. Not only are rubber-like products, gloves, condoms, catheters and tubing made from Natural Rubber, but, also adhesives and sponge foams.

Almost everybody will have some kind of a reaction to these proteins. Depending on the number of times exposed and the duration of the exposure the reaction can be anything from a mild dermatological rash to anaphylactic shock. Certain groups of people appear to be more susceptible to developing anaphylaxis. Healthcare workers for example, may develop severe dermatological reactions because of the daily repeated exposure and Myelodysplasia (spina bifida) patients seem to be particularly at risk, especially under anesthesia.

ROHO Incorporated products are manufactured from man-made materials. The cushions themselves are made of Neoprene, a synthetic rubber material that contains no protein, the covers are made of Nylon, Lycra, Polyurethane, and Polyvinyl chloride, and pumps are made of polypropylene.

When discussing specific allergy problems with healthcare workers we should be careful not to forget that a very small percentage of the population will have a reaction to contact with our cushions. People develop hypersensitivity to all sorts of things. Some people develop hives and severe itching when they come into contact with wool clothing. Others develop reactions to detergents and soaps or citrus fruits. Because the cushion is made from a chemical polymer and contains other chemicals used to produce a cure and render it resistive to UV light and the effects of ozone etc. means that a few rare individuals will have a dermatological allergy reaction to our product. This can be a serious problem but it should not be confused with the protein toxicity associated with Natural Rubber.
ROHO Cushion Products Flammability Tests

Testing has been conducted by an independent testing agency in England using the British Standards Institute *Methods of test for assessment of the ignitability of upholstered seating by smoldering and flaming ignition sources* (BS5852). Ignition sources 0, 1, 3, and 5 were used. When tested for flammability according to this method, ROHO DRY FLOATATION products complied with the requirements for the ignition sources specified.

Additionally, the ROHO DRY FLOATATION Wheelchair Cushion has been tested and passed the requirements specified for a vertical flame source in FAR (Federal Air Regulations) 25.853 Appendix F.