Put safety first.

Are you still using n-propyl bromide (nPB) for vapor degreasing? Learn why you should switch to 3M™ Novec™ 73DE Engineered Fluid – a smart, safe and sustainable alternative.

nPB is unsafe for typical vapor degreasing applications

Typical worker exposure during vapor degreasing exceeds nPB’s exposure limit, unless potentially costly facility upgrades and personal safety equipment are implemented.

Typical exposure in vapor degreasing

nPB

Novel 73DE fluid

~2000x higher exposure limit than nPB

0.1 ppm nPB exposure limit

195 ppm Novel 73DE fluid exposure limit

nPB DANGER ZONE

Typical vapor degreasing exposure exceeds the nPB exposure limit 100 times over, making it an unsafe solution for this application.

Stable Novec fluid won’t “go acid” like nPB

Without maintenance and regular addition of stabilizers, nPB can degrade and become acidic over time, leading to expensive repairs and rework. Novel 73DE fluid is inherently more stable and doesn’t require regular stabilizer maintenance or acid acceptance testing.

Proven cleaning performance

Cleaning trials with Novel 73DE fluid have demonstrated a proven record of performance comparable to nPB for vapor degreasing. Our technical experts can work with you to optimize your cleaning operation.

nPB shows acute health risks

It is especially hazardous to women of childbearing age due to the potential to cause adverse developmental effects. Additionally, non-cancer and cancer health risks were identified for workers with repeated and chronic exposures, including:

- Neurotoxicity
- Kidney toxicity
- Liver toxicity
- Reproductive toxicity
- Lung cancer

Typical nPB vapor degreasing exposures necessitate use of engineering controls or use of either (1) a full facepiece, helmet or hood supplied air respirator or (2) a powered air purifying respirator (PAPR) to help protect workers.

Time is running out for nPB

Intensifying regulatory pressure due to safety concerns means nPB is increasingly targeted for phase-down, and the day it is no longer available may come sooner than you think.

| Subject to phase-out in the European Union | Yes, in 2020 |
| Use reporting required by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | No | Yes |
| Under U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) advisory | No | Yes |
| OSHA/NIOSH Hazard Alert issued | No | Yes |