

Workers with Lung Damage from Diacetyl

● ● ● ● *Answers To Your Questions*

Q. Why have workers at food, snack and flavoring plants developed illnesses?

A. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health has found cases of severe lung disease, called bronchiolitis obliterans, among workers at food, snack and flavoring factories who breathed artificial butter flavoring vapors, which contain the chemical diacetyl.

Q. What is a diacetyl?

A. Diacetyl is used for aroma and taste in butter, some cheeses and snack and bakery products. In tests, laboratory rats that breathed high concentrations of vapors containing diacetyl developed significant lung damage.

Q. What specific types of worker injuries have been caused by exposure to artificial butter flavoring?

A. Workers exposed to butter flavoring mixtures have been diagnosed with injuries to their respiratory systems, including bronchiolitis obliterans, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, emphysema, severe lung impairment, chronic asthma and other lung diseases.

Q. Several workers have been diagnosed with bronchiolitis obliterans. What is this disease?

A. Bronchiolitis obliterans is an obliteration or chronic scarring of the lung's airways which does not respond to normal asthma medication. It is a life-threatening disease, and is extremely rare in young persons.

Q. Are only workers at microwave popcorn factories at risk?

A. No. Workers at plants that produce a wide variety of products, from candy to snack cakes to potato chips, could be at risk of developing a severe lung disease associated with breathing artificial butter flavoring vapors. Health officials are also investigating the safety of workers exposed to other flavoring agents including acetaldehyde (used in citrus flavoring) and benzaldehyde (common cherry and fruit flavors).

Q. If I have suffered a lung injury, how can I receive compensation?

A. You should speak to an attorney experienced in personal injury cases. Lief Cabraser will provide a prompt review of your case for no charge or obligation. We are currently representing workers with "popcorn lung" disease. We are one of the largest law firms in the nation that represents only plaintiffs. Our team of personal injury lawyers, assisted by multiple nurses, scientific advisors and medical experts, is dedicated to obtaining the maximum recovery permitted under the law for our clients.



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