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ANIMAL FATS STATEMENT

There is a medical concern regarding fats derived from animal sources, specifically that they can carry, from certain animals, prion proteins capable of contaminating medical analyses and manufacturing processes or medicinal and food substances. These proteins are long-lived both within and without an animal host and can be associated with disease states of the brain and nervous system in both animals and humans. Nonetheless, there are processing procedures that inactivate the protein or otherwise disallow affected animal by-products from entering sensitive supply chains.

Fats, also called fatty acids, can be purified from either animal or plant sources and are used as the free acid or in the form of salts; bar soap is an example of a mixture of fatty acids and salts with other ingredients.

Würth Electronics Midcom has identified two substances, calcium stearate (CAS 1592-23-0) and zinc stearate (CAS 557-05-1), in some injection molding plastics that may have plant or animal origin. If present, they occur at approximately one percent by weight, individually, in homogeneous mixture. There is no indication that these are from animal sources.

Würth Electronics Midcom also has identified one material of likely animal source, hydrogenated tallow fatty acids (CAS 61790-38-3), that occurs in an injection molding plastic at approximately one percent. However, being hydrogenated, it is expected that the reactive chemical environment of the hydrogenation process precludes protein contamination.

Würth Electronics Midcom products are not designed or manufactured for human contact during use, or for exposure to materials in analytical and manufacturing processes; proper implementation of products isolates them from external environments. Additionally, plastics that may contain low levels of fatty acids or derivatives are largely encased or enrobed in other materials of construction; the potential for external transfer of fatty substances, if present, is greatly minimized.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John L. Hauber'.

John Hauber
Materials Compliance Engineer

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