

## Press release

### User safety of laser printer systems

- **Under the EU Directive laser toners are not subject to labelling as dangerous and are thus not classified as toxic, sensitising or carcinogenic**

**Berlin, 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2008**

There are no health risks to be expected from toners or from particle emission by laser printers or copiers when used as intended – this includes both the printing process and the handling of devices and consumables. The same applies to trained service personnel during the maintenance of laser printers and copiers.

BITKOM strongly rejects a current press release by the University of Rostock, in which toners are mentioned in connection with an increased cancer risk.

Under the EU Directive 1999/45/EG for preparations, laser toners are not subject to labelling as dangerous and are thus not to be classified as toxic, sensitising or carcinogenic. According to recognised testing procedures, the contribution of laser printing systems to the concentration of dust particles in indoor air lies well below the German and US workplace exposure limits (AGW, US OSHA). Laser printing systems also comply with the emission criteria for particles set out in the German Blue Angel programme initiated by the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA).

Results of measurements by the Federal Environmental Agency only show a minimal increase in the concentration of dust in the air caused by printing processes. According to a study by the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) the concentration of dust particles at laser printer workplaces generally lies within the normal range found in private homes or schools for instance. Additional specific limit values for laser printing

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## **Presseinformation**

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systems are unnecessary, as the measured particle emissions are very low. Thus, the suggestion that existing outdoor limits for particles with a proven health hazardous potential also be applied to indoor environments is neither reasonable nor necessary.

Toner particles belong to the granular bio-durable particles (GBPs) without any known significant specific toxicity. The comparison of toner particles with diesel soot or carbon, asbestos or cigarette smoke can not be supported from the scientific point of view, as they are fundamentally different in their composition and their toxicological profiles. Such comparisons are merely misleading for consumers.

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