

File No PLC/889

December 2009

**NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT  
SCHEME  
(NICNAS)**

**FULL PUBLIC REPORT**

**Polymer in Synocure 854 BA 80**

This Assessment has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (Cwlth) (the Act) and Regulations. This legislation is an Act of the Commonwealth of Australia. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing, and conducts the risk assessment for public health and occupational health and safety. The assessment of environmental risk is conducted by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

For the purposes of subsection 78(1) of the Act, this Full Public Report may be inspected at our NICNAS office by appointment only at 334-336 Illawarra Road, Marrickville NSW 2204.

This Full Public Report is also available for viewing and downloading from the NICNAS website or available on request, free of charge, by contacting NICNAS. For requests and enquiries please contact the NICNAS Administration Coordinator at:

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**Director  
NICNAS**

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**FULL PUBLIC REPORT****Polymer in Synocure 854 BA 80****1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS**

## APPLICANT(S)

International Sales & Marketing Pty Ltd (ABN 36 467 259 314)  
262 Highett Road  
Highett VIC 3190

## NOTIFICATION CATEGORY

Polymer of Low Concern

## EXEMPT INFORMATION (SECTION 75 OF THE ACT)

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication:

Chemical Name, CAS Number, Molecular and Structural Formulae, Molecular Weight, Polymer Constituents, Residual Monomers/Impurities, Use Details, Import Volume, and Site of Reformulation

## VARIATION OF DATA REQUIREMENTS (SECTION 24 OF THE ACT)

No variation to the schedule of data requirements is claimed.

## PREVIOUS NOTIFICATION IN AUSTRALIA BY APPLICANT(S)

None

## NOTIFICATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

None

**2. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL**

## MARKETING NAME(S)

Synocure 854 BA 80

## MOLECULAR WEIGHT (MW)

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) > 1,000 Da

## REACTIVE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

The notified polymer contains only low concern functional groups.

**3. PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION***Criterion*

Molecular Weight Requirements  
Functional Group Equivalent Weight (FGEW) Requirements  
Low Charge Density  
Approved Elements Only  
Stable Under Normal Conditions of Use  
Not Water Absorbing  
Not a Hazard Substance or Dangerous Good

*Criterion met*

Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes  
Yes

The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria.

**4. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES**

Appearance at 20°C and 101.3 kPa:	Clear liquid*
Glass Transition Temp	13°C (measured by dynamic scanning calorimetry)
Density	1035 kg/m <sup>3</sup> at 20°C*
Water Solubility	Not determined. Claimed to be insoluble in water by the notifier. However, the presence of hydrophilic functionality may enhance solubility in water.
Dissociation Constant	The notified polymer contains anionic functionality, which is expected to show typical acidity.
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions. The notified polymer contains hydrolysable functionality, however this is not expected to occur within the environmental pH range of 4-9.
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use.
*For Synocure 854 BA 80 containing 80% notified polymer.	

## 5. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION

### MAXIMUM INTRODUCTION VOLUME OF NOTIFIED CHEMICAL (100%) OVER NEXT 5 YEARS

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Tonnes	10-30	10-30	30-100	30-100	30-100

#### Use

Base resin used in polyurethane protective coatings for industrial and commercial applications at < 20%.

#### Mode of Introduction and Disposal

The notified polymer will be imported into Australia at approximately 80% solution in solvent in 200 L steel drums.

The imported notified polymer solution will be formulated into finished coating products containing the notified polymer at < 20% before being distributed to professional applicators who will apply the paints by spray, roller and brush.

## 6. HUMAN HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

### Hazard Characterisation

No toxicological data were submitted. The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and can therefore be considered to be of low hazard.

### Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment

As the polymer meets the low concern criteria and exposure is expected to be controlled by use of engineering controls and/or personal protective equipment, the risk to workers is not considered unacceptable.

### Public Health Risk Assessment

The notified polymer is intended only for use in industrial coating and as such public exposure to the notified polymer is not expected. Following coating application, the notified polymer will become trapped within a film and will not be bioavailable. Exposure of the public to the notified polymer is negligible and therefore risk is not considered unacceptable.

## 7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

### Hazard Characterisation

No ecotoxicological data were submitted. Anionic polymers are known to be moderately toxic to algae. The mode of toxic action is overchelation of nutrient elements needed by algae for growth. The highest toxicity is when the acid is on alternating carbons of the polymer backbone. This could apply to the notified polymer. However, the toxicity to algae is likely to be further reduced due to the presence of calcium ions, which will bind to the functional groups.

### Environmental Risk Assessment

The notified polymer may be released in small amounts (< 4%) during formulation as spills, container residues and waste material. These releases will be collected for disposal to landfill or by thermal decomposition after solvent recovery, with waste material reduced to an insoluble polymeric mass before landfill disposal. Up to 15% may be released to the environment overspray during use. However, it is expected that the notified polymer will rapidly cure and thus become inert within coating matrix particles. The majority of notified polymer will share the fate of the substrates to which it has been applied, which is expected to be to landfill, or recycled for metals reclamation, which will entail thermal decomposition of the paint. In landfill, the notified polymer is expected to degrade slowly in situ. Therefore, the notified polymer is not expected to pose a risk to the environment when it is used as proposed.

## 8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Human health risk assessment

Under the conditions of the occupational settings described, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the health of workers.

When used in the proposed manner, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk to public health.

### Environmental risk assessment

Based on the reported use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose a risk to the environment.

### Recommendations

#### CONTROL MEASURES

##### Occupational Health and Safety

- No specific engineering controls, work practices or personal protective equipment are required for the safe use of the notified polymer itself, however, these should be selected on the basis of all ingredients in the formulation.

Guidance in selection of personal protective equipment can be obtained from Australian, Australian/New Zealand or other approved standards.

- Spray application should be carried out in accordance with the National Guidance Material for Spray Painting.
- A copy of the MSDS should be easily accessible to employees.
- If products and mixtures containing the notified polymer are classified as hazardous to health in accordance with the *Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances* [NOHSC:1008(2004)], workplace practices and control procedures consistent with provisions of State and Territory hazardous substances legislation must be in operation.

##### Disposal

- The notified polymer should be disposed of to landfill.

##### Emergency procedures

- Spills and/or accidental release of the notified polymer should be handled by physical containment, collection and subsequent safe disposal.

### Regulatory Obligations

#### Secondary Notification

This risk assessment is based on the information available at the time of notification. The Director may call for the reassessment of the polymer under secondary notification provisions based on changes in certain circumstances. Under Section 64 of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act (1989)* the notifier, as well as any other importer or manufacturer of the notified polymer, have post-assessment regulatory

obligations to notify NICNAS when any of these circumstances change. These obligations apply even when the notified polymer is listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS).

Therefore, the Director of NICNAS must be notified in writing within 28 days by the notifier, other importer or manufacturer:

- (1) Under Section 64(1) of the Act; if
- the notified polymer is introduced in a chemical form that does not meet the PLC criteria.

or

- (2) Under Section 64(2) of the Act; if
- the function or use of the notified polymer has changed from component in industrial coatings, or is likely to change significantly;
  - the amount of notified polymer being introduced has increased, or is likely to increase, significantly;
  - the notified polymer has begun to be manufactured in Australia;
  - additional information has become available to the person as to an adverse effect of the chemical on occupational health and safety, public health, or the environment.

The Director will then decide whether a reassessment (i.e. a secondary notification and assessment) is required.

*Material Safety Data Sheet*

The MSDS of the products containing the notified polymer provided by the notifier was reviewed by NICNAS. The accuracy of the information on the MSDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.