

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME (NICNAS)

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Joncryl® 679

This Assessment has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act) and Regulations. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the Australian Government Department of Health, and conducts the risk assessment for public health and occupational health and safety. The assessment of environmental risk is conducted by the Australian Government Department of the Environment.

This Public Report is 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:

Street Address:	Level 7, 260 Elizabeth Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010, AUSTRALIA.
Postal Address:	GPO Box 58, SYDNEY NSW 2001, AUSTRALIA.
TEL:	+ 61 2 8577 8800
FAX:	+ 61 2 8577 8888
Website:	www.nicnas.gov.au

**Director
NICNAS**

June 2016

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SUMMARY

The following details will be published in the NICNAS *Chemical Gazette*:

ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	APPLICANT	CHEMICAL OR TRADE NAME	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	INTRODUCTION VOLUME	USE
PLC/1354	BASF Australia Ltd	Joncryl® 679	No	≤ 200 tonnes per annum	Component of inks and varnishes

CONCLUSIONS AND REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS

Human Health Risk Assessment

Based on the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the health of workers and the public.

Environmental Risk Assessment

Based on the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.

Health and Safety Recommendations

- 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.

- A copy of the (M)SDS should be easily accessible to employees.
- If products and mixtures containing the notified polymer are classified as hazardous to health in accordance with the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia, workplace practices and control procedures consistent with provisions of State and Territory hazardous substances legislation should be in operation.

Disposal

- Where reuse or recycling are not appropriate, dispose of the notified polymer in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, state, territory and local government legislation.

Emergency Procedures

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

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.
 - inks or varnishes containing the notified polymer are applied to packaging that is in direct contact with food.

or

- (2) Under Section 64(2) of the Act; if
 - the function or use of the notified polymer has changed from component of inks and varnishes, 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 notified polymer 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 (M)SDS of the notified polymer was provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the (M)SDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

Applicants

BASF Australia Ltd (ABN: 62 008 437 867)
Level 12, 28 Freshwater Place
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006

Exempt Information (Section 75 of the Act)

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication: chemical name, other names, CAS number, molecular and structural formulae, molecular weight, polymer constituents, residual monomers/impurities and import volume.

2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER

Marketing Name

Joncryl[®] 679

Molecular Weight

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

3. PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION

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

The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria.

4. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance at 20 °C and 101.3 kPa	Colourless solid with acrylic like odour
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	140-150 °C
Density	1160 kg/m ³ at 20 °C
Water Solubility	Not determined. Expected to be low based on the high molecular weight and predominantly hydrophobic structure of the notified polymer.
Dissociation Constant	Not determined. The notified polymer contains potential anionic functionalities which are expected to be ionised in the environmental pH range (4–9).
Particle Size	Not determined
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use

5. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION

Maximum Introduction Volume of Notified Chemical (100%) Over Next 5 Years

<i>Year</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
Tonnes	100-200	100-200	100-200	100-200	100-200

Use

The notified polymer will not be manufactured in Australia. It will be imported into Australia by sea at a concentration > 90% for reformulation into inks and overprint varnishes. The final concentration of the notified polymer in end-use inks and varnishes will be < 20%. The ink and varnish containing the notified polymer will be used under industrial settings only and will be applied to paper and plastic packaging films by flexographic printing unit. Some uses will be for the exterior of food packaging, mostly on cardboard boxes. It is possible that indirect food contact may occur.

6. HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

No toxicological data were submitted. The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and is therefore assumed to be of low hazard. The risk of the notified polymer to occupational and public health is not considered to be unreasonable given the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern.

Although not considered in this risk assessment, NICNAS notes that the notified polymer contains residual monomers that are classified as hazardous according to the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia. These are not present in the notified polymer as introduced above the cut off concentrations for classification.

As some uses will be for the exterior of food packaging, it is possible that indirect food contact may occur. The public report of this assessment will be forwarded to Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) for their information.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

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

The notified polymer will not be manufactured in Australia. However, it will be reformulated in Australia as a component of inks and varnishes for paper, plastic and the exterior of food packaging, applied by flexographic printing. Reformulation of the notified polymer occurs in a closed automated system and release to atmosphere is expected to be negligible. Solvent used for equipment washing, containing residues of the notified polymer, is expected to be recycled for reuse on site or disposed of via accredited waste disposal contractors. During formulation activities approximately 1% of the notified polymer is expected to remain as residue in the empty containers. A further 1% may be lost as result of spills and equipment leaks. Material lost due to spills and leaks will be collected and disposed of in accordance with local regulations. The notified polymer is expected to be used in industrial sites and Do-It-Yourself (DIY) use is not expected. Therefore, the notified polymer is not expected to have significant release to the aquatic environment. A maximum of 1% of the notified polymer is expected to be released to landfill as a result of the disposal of containers with residual polymer and wastes from cleaning of equipment used in mixing.

The ink will be used to print articles and the notified polymer, bound within the dried ink matrix, will share the fate of the article. It is anticipated that majority of these articles will be disposed of to landfill and the remainder will be recycled at the end of their useful life. During the recycling process, waste paper will be repulped using a variety of alkaline dispersing and wetting agents, water emulsifiable organic solvents and bleaches. Aqueous wastes containing these agents are expected to be sent to sewage treatment plants (STPs) for processing. Under a worst case scenario it is assumed that 50% of

the notified polymer will be washed into sewers. In sewage treatment plants, most of the notified polymer is expected to partition to sludge and sediments due its high molecular weight.

The proportion of the notified polymer that is adsorbed to STP sludge will be disposed of to landfill or may be used for soil remediation, where it is expected to slowly degrade to form water and oxides of carbon. Due to its high molecular weight, the notified polymer will not readily cross biological membranes and, therefore, bioaccumulation is not expected.

Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard and use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.