

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME (NICNAS)

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in 923-625 HS Clear Universal VOC

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 and Energy.

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:

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**Director
NICNAS**

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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/1506	BASF Australia Ltd	Polymer in 923-625 HS Clear Universal VOC	No	≤ 30 tonnes per annum	Component of automotive paint

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 SDS should be easily accessible to employees.
- Spray applications should be carried out in accordance with the Safe Work Australia Code of Practice for *Spray Painting and Powder Coating* (Safe Work Australia, 2015) or relevant State or Territory Code of Practice.
- 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;or
- (2) Under Section 64(2) of the Act; if
 - the function or use of the notified polymer has changed from a component of automotive paint 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.

Safety Data Sheet

The SDS of the product containing the notified polymer was provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the 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

923-625 HS Clear Universal VOC (product containing the notified polymer at < 50% concentration)

Molecular Weight

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) is > 1,000 g/mol

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 liquid *
Boiling Point	116 °C*
Density	1,000 kg/m ³ *
Water Solubility	Immiscible
Dissociation Constant	Contains potential anionic functionalities. However, ionisation in the environmental pH range (4 to 9) is expected to be limited due to immiscibility in water
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use

*For product containing notified polymer at < 50% concentration in organic solvent

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	10 - 30	10 - 30	10 - 30

Use

The notified polymer will not be manufactured in Australia. It will be imported as a component of finished paints at < 50% concentration. No further reformulation or repackaging will occur.

The paints containing the notified polymer at < 50% concentration will be used by professional painters at vehicle repair workshops. The paints will be applied by spray in a spray booth.

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.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

No ecotoxicological data were submitted by the notifier. Anionic polymers are generally of low toxicity to fish and daphnia, however they 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, leading to chelation of essential nutrients. However, this does not apply to the notified polymer and it is therefore not considered to be an over-chelation hazard to algae (Boethling & Nabholz, 1997).

The notified polymer will not be manufactured or reformulated in Australia. It will be imported as a component of finished paints. The paints will be applied by spray in spray booths by professional painters at vehicle repair workshops. As estimated by the notifier, about 30% of the import volume of the notified polymer could be released as overspray generated during use. The overspray is expected to be collected and cured in spray booth filters before disposal to landfill in accordance with local government regulations. Liquid waste from application equipment cleaning is expected to be disposed of by approved waste management facilities. Release of the notified polymer to the environment in the event of accidental spills or leaks during storage, transport and use is expected to be absorbed on suitable materials and disposed of to landfill in accordance with local government regulations.

Following application, most of the notified polymer is expected to share the fate of the article to which it has been applied, either subjected to metal reclamation processes or being disposed of to landfill at the end of their useful lives. During metal reclamation processes, the notified polymer will thermally decompose to form water vapour and oxides of carbon and phosphorous. In landfill, the notified polymer will be present as cured solids and will be neither bioavailable nor mobile. Thus, release of the notified polymer from the assessed use pattern is not expected to lead to ecotoxicologically significant concentrations in the aquatic environment. The notified polymer is not expected to bioaccumulate due to its high molecular weight. In landfill, the notified polymer is expected to eventually degrade via biotic and abiotic processes to form water and oxides of carbon and phosphorous.

Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard and assessed use pattern as a component of industrial paints, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Boethling, RS & Nabholz VJ (1997) Chapter 10 Environmental Assessment of Polymers under the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act. In: Hamilton, JD Sutcliffe R ed. Ecological Assessment of Polymers Strategies for Product Stewardship and Regulatory Programs, 1st ed. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, pp 187-234.

Safe Work Australia (2015) Code of Practice: Spray Painting and Powder Coating, Safe Work Australia, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-code-practice-spray-painting-and-powder-coating>.