

File No: PLC/143

November 1999

**NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION  
AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME**

**FULL PUBLIC REPORT**

**HS-1260P**

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Director  
Chemicals Notification and Assessment

**FULL PUBLIC REPORT****HS-1260P****1. APPLICANT**

Ricoh Office Automation Pty Ltd of 8 Rodborough Rd Frenchs Forest NSW 2088 has submitted a Polymer of Low Concern notification statement in support of their application for an assessment certificate for HS-1260P.

**2. IDENTITY OF THE CHEMICAL**

The notifier has not claimed any information to be exempted from publication in the Full Public Report.

**Chemical Name:** 1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid, polymer with 1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid, 1,2-ethanediol and 2,2'-[(1-methylethylidene)bis(4,1-phenyleneoxy)]bis[ethanol]

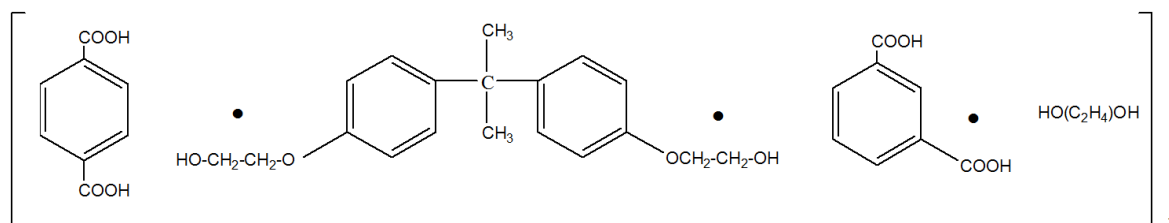
**Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) Registry No.:** 41259-36-3

**Other Names:** isophthalic acid, polymer with terephthalic acid, ethylene glycol and 4,4'-bis(hydroxyethyl)bisphenol A

**Marketing Name:** HS-1260P

**Molecular Formula:**  $(C_{19}H_{24}O_4 \cdot C_8H_6O_4 \cdot C_8H_6O_4 \cdot C_2H_6O_2)_x$

**Structural Formula:**



**Number-Average Molecular Weight (NAMW):** 3450

**Weight-Average Molecular Weight:** 7690

**Polydispersity:** 2.23

**Maximum Percentage of Low  
Molecular Weight Species**

**Molecular Weight < 500:** 1.39 %

**Molecular Weight < 1 000:** 4.85 %

**Weight Percentage of  
Ingredients:**

<i>Chemical Name</i>	<i>CAS No.</i>	<i>Weight %</i>
ethanol, 2,2'-[(1-methylethylidene)bis(4,1-phenyleneoxy)] bis-	901-44-0	65.0
1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid	121-91-5	17.5
1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid	100-21-0	15.5
1,2-ethanediol	107-21-1	2.0

**Method of Detection  
and Determination:** infrared spectroscopy

**Spectral Data:** 3510, 3420, 3040, 2980, 2930, 2870, 1720, 1610, 1585,  
1515, 1455, 1410, 1365, 1300, 1210, 1180, 1120, 1100,  
1070, 1040, 1020, 935, 875, 830, 595, 575, 555 cm<sup>-1</sup>

The polymer meets the criteria for assessment as a synthetic polymer of low concern under Regulation 4A of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*.

### 3. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

**Appearance at 20°C  
and 101.3 kPa:** odourless white or coloured solid

**Melting Point:** approximately 80°C

**Specific Gravity:** 1.1

**Water Solubility:** 0.067 mg/L at 25°C

**Particle Size:** the notifier has provided the following particle size  
distribution data for the imported toner:

Particle diameter (µm)	Weight %
1.587 – 2.000	0.00
2.000 – 2.520	0.09
2.520 – 3.175	0.20
3.175 – 4.000	0.81

4.000 – 5.040	6.35
5.040 – 6.350	16.91
6.350 – 8.000	29.41
8.000 – 10.079	32.01
10.079 – 12.699	12.23
12.699 – 16.000	1.83
16.000 – 20.159	0.16
above 20.159	0.00

**Hydrolysis as a Function of pH:**

not determined (see comments below)

**Dissociation Constant:**

not determined (see comments below)

**Flammability Limits:**

not flammable, combustible (see comments below)

**Autoignition Temperature:**

not determined

**Explosive Properties:**

not explosive

**Reactivity/Stability:**

stable under normal environmental conditions

**Comments on Physico-Chemical Properties**

Tests do not appear to have been carried out under OECD Good Laboratory Practice Guidelines.

To measure solubility, the test material was placed into an Erlenmeyer flask with distilled water and agitated at room temperature for 24 hours. Water solubility of the test material was then determined gravimetrically. The low solubility of the test material suggests that hydrolysis is unlikely in the environmental pH range despite the presence of ester linkages in the polymer. The  $K_{ow}$  value was not determined but is likely to be high. This suggests that the polymer will associate with soil and sediments. The notified polymer may have low residual free carboxylic acid functionality, which is likely to have typical acidity, but the low solubility is likely to preclude dissociation.

The MSDS for the coloured toners indicates a lower flammability limit of 34.5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for the dust, while stating that the toner is self-extinguishing. The MSDS for the black toner contains no flammability limits but states that the explosion limits for dust in air are similar to those for coal dust.

**4. PURITY OF THE CHEMICAL**

**Degree of Purity:**

> 99 %

**Maximum Content of Residual Monomers:**

<i>Chemical Name</i>	<i>CAS No.</i>	<i>Weight %</i>
ethanol, 2,2'-[(1-methylethylidene)bis(4,1-phenyleneoxy)] bis-	901-44-0	0.01
1,3-benzenedicarboxylic acid	121-91-5	0.01
1,4-benzenedicarboxylic acid	100-21-0	0.01
1,2-ethanediol	107-21-1	0.01

#### **Hazardous Impurities:**

<i>Chemical name:</i>	stannane, dibutyloxo-
<i>CAS No.:</i>	818-08-6
<i>Weight percentage:</i>	0.05
<i>Regulatory controls:</i>	national exposure standard for tin, organic compounds, 0.1 mg/m <sup>3</sup> TWA, 0.2 mg/m <sup>3</sup> STEL with skin notation (NOHSC, 1995)
<i>Toxic properties:</i>	eye, skin and respiratory tract irritant; impairment of central nervous system function possibly resulting in death; liver impairment; suspected cause of birth defects; effects may be delayed (International Chemical Safety Cards, 1999)

**Non-hazardous Impurities (> 1% by weight):** none

**Additives/Adjuvants:** the notified polymer will be imported as a component of toner for photocopiers; the finished toner will contain a number of other ingredients, particularly pigments

## **5. USE, VOLUME AND FORMULATION**

The notified polymer will be used in electrophotography toner for colour photocopiers. It will comprise 79 % of the toner in both black and colour cartridges. The notified polymer is a binder resin which will fuse to the paper upon heating in the photocopier.

The notified polymer will be imported as finished toner, packed into cartridges. The black toner cartridges will contain 160 g toner (126 g notified polymer) for starting cartridges and 310 g toner (245 g notified polymer) for normal cartridges. The colour toner cartridges will contain 120 g toner (95 g notified polymer) for starting cartridges and 230 g toner (182 g notified polymer) for normal cartridges. In Australia, the toner will be transported, stored and handled only in the cartridge prior to end use. The cartridges will be packed in vacuum sealed bags within cardboard cartons containing four cartridges.

The toner containing the notified polymer is expected to be used in more than 100 sites, generally offices, in Australia; the anticipated import volume is 333 kg per annum in the first

five years of importation.

## **6. OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE**

The toner containing the notified polymer will be contained in sealed cartridges. No reformulation or repackaging will take place. Hence, no exposure to the notified polymer, or toner, is expected during transportation and storage. Four to six transport and storage personnel are expected to be involved in handling the notified polymer, for 2 – 3 hours per day, 50 days per year.

Occupational exposure to the notified polymer in Australia will primarily concern copier service personnel.

Duties of the service personnel (approximately 100) will include changing the toner cartridges. The used cartridge is removed from the machine and replaced with the new cartridge without direct contact with the toner contained in the cartridge. The toner in the new cartridge remains sealed until the sealing tape is removed just prior to installation. Toner cartridge replacement is expected to take 5 – 20 minutes per day, 200 days per year. Inhalation and dermal exposure to the toner powder may occur during toner replacement, particularly in the event of a container leak or spill. Other service operations such as cleaning the inside of the machine and servicing the machine may also involve contact with toner particles remaining in the interior of the machine or disturbance of toner dust leading to inhalation exposure. Service personnel are stated to wear cotton gloves when direct contact with toner is possible.

Exposure may occur upon handling printed matter. However, very little toner is used per sheet of paper and it would not be separately available for exposure or dermal uptake as it is fused and fixed to the printed surface. These considerations indicate there would be no human exposure to the notified polymer during the handling of printed materials.

## **7. PUBLIC EXPOSURE**

The use of photocopiers using the toner containing the notified polymer is likely to normally be in the occupational environment, and there is not likely to be public exposure during transport of sealed toner cartridges. Public contact will therefore only occur from touching the fixed toner on paper. The notifier states that the toner is fused to the paper and, under normal conditions, release from the surface is unlikely to occur. Consequently, the potential for public exposure to the notified polymer during all phases of its life cycle is considered to be negligible.

## **8. ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE**

### **Release**

The toner cartridges are fully sealed prior to insertion into copier machines and therefore minimal environmental release is expected prior to use. When the toner is exhausted, the used cartridges are discarded to landfill. The notifier has estimated that up to 40 - 50 g of toner

will remain in the used cartridge, which is then disposed of to landfill. Calculation of the amount disposed of to landfill depends on the size of cartridge which will chiefly be used. For the smaller cartridges, 40 – 50 g is 33 – 42 % of the contents, equating to about 110 - 140 kg of notified polymer annually going to landfill in used cartridges. However, for the large black cartridge 40 - 50 g represents 13 – 16 % of the cartridge, which would mean 43 - 53 kg of notified polymer annually going to landfill in used cartridges.

Release of the notified polymer is also expected to occur at landfill sites where spills and waste paper are discarded. In addition, polymer removed from the paper during recycling is likely to be incorporated with the waste sludge, which will then be discarded to landfill, or incinerated.

Although there is a risk of release of this polymer during transport, the risk of adverse effects to the environment is considered to be low as the polymer is contained in individual, sealed cartridges. Spilt material will be collected and disposed of to either landfill or incineration.

### **Fate**

During recycling, waste paper is pulped and de-inked using a variety of dispersing and wetting agents, organic solvents and bleaches. After pulping, the contaminants and ink are separated from the fibres by pumping the stock through various heat washing, screening, cleaning, flotation and dispersion stages. During these processes there is the potential for hydrolysis of the polymer to occur. Polymer removed from the paper will most likely be incorporated with the sludge remaining from recycling. Sludge is likely to be discarded to landfill or incinerated. Combustion products will be water and oxides of carbon.

Once in landfill, leaching of the notified polymer is unlikely to occur due to the low solubility of the substance. Hydrolysis, although theoretically possible, is unlikely. Any polymer accidentally entering waterways would be expected to settle out onto sediments. The polymer is not expected to cross biological membranes, due to the low solubility and high molecular weight. Therefore the notified polymer is not expected to bioaccumulate.

## **9. EVALUATION OF TOXICOLOGICAL DATA**

No toxicology data were submitted.

## **10. ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

No ecotoxicological data were submitted.

## **11. ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD**

The low environmental exposure of the polymer as a result of normal use indicates that the overall environmental hazard should be low.

Accidental spillage of the polymer, either during replacement of cartridges or during

transport should result in powder wastes being sent to either landfill or incineration facilities. Polymer remaining in spent cartridges may also be incinerated or sent to landfill. Movement of the polymer by leaching from landfill sites is not expected.

Environmental exposure to the notified substance could occur when paper containing the polymer is recycled or otherwise disposed of. The polymer would remain either bound to waste paper, or to sludge that results from recycling processes, and may be sent to landfill or incinerated.

## **12. ASSESSMENT OF PUBLIC AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY EFFECTS**

No toxicological information has been provided for the notified polymer and therefore the substance cannot be assessed against the NOHSC *Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances* (NOHSC, 1999). The overall toxicity of the notified polymer is expected to be low as it is not highly reactive and, having a high molecular weight would not readily cross biological membranes.

The toner containing the notified polymer will have a uniformly small particle size, with 85 % of the particles being in the respirable size range. Work areas around the photocopiers should be well ventilated to ensure that the concentration of airborne toner particles is as low as possible.

### *Occupational Health and Safety*

Waterside, warehouse and transport workers will only be exposed to the notified polymer in the event of an accident or damage to packaging. The occupational health risk to these workers is negligible, considering the small quantities in individual toner cartridges and the low hazard presented by the polymer.

The main exposure will be to service personnel who will generally be responsible for changing toner cartridges. The design of the toner cartridges is such that exposure to the notified polymer should be minimal, even when changing toner cartridges. Minor dermal or inhalation exposure may occur if a small quantity of toner is spilt while changing cartridges.

Office workers are not expected to come into contact with the notified polymer under normal circumstances. Infrequent dermal exposure of end users to the toner containing the notified polymer may occur during servicing or clearing paper jams, but the high molecular weight of the notified polymer indicates that dermal absorption would be minimal. There may be a low level of toner dust in the immediate vicinity of photocopiers when they are operating, although inhalation exposure to the notified polymer is expected to pose a low toxicological hazard. Exposure to the notified polymer is not expected to occur once the toner is bound to paper.

Based on the low toxicological hazard presented by the polymer and the expected very low exposures, the health risk posed to office workers by the notified polymer is very low.

### *Public Health*

Public exposure to the notified polymer is possible in the event of an accident during transport and storage, but the likelihood of a substantial spill occurring is low in view of the



packaging. The toner containing the notified polymer would normally only be used in occupational settings, and therefore inhalation exposure to toner dust is not likely. Due to the high molecular weight of the notified polymer, percutaneous absorption is unlikely in the case of dermal contact with the toner.

Based on the information provided and the intended use, the notified polymer does not appear to pose a significant risk to public health.

### **13. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To minimise occupational exposure to HS-1260P the following guidelines and precautions should be observed:

- Work areas around photocopiers should be well ventilated. Workers using the product should implement good work practices to avoid spills and the generation of dust;
- Gloves should be worn if direct contact with toner is possible;
- Spillage of the notified polymer should be avoided. Spillages should be swept up promptly and put into containers for disposal;
- Good personal hygiene should be practised to minimise the potential for ingestion;
- A copy of the MSDS should be easily accessible to employees.

### **14. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET**

The MSDS for the notified polymer was provided in accordance with the *National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets* (NOHSC, 1994).

This MSDS was provided by the applicant as part of the notification statement. It is reproduced here as a matter of public record. The accuracy of this information remains the responsibility of the applicant.

### **15. REQUIREMENTS FOR SECONDARY NOTIFICATION**

Under subsection 64(1) of the Act, secondary notification may be required if the polymer characteristics cease to satisfy the criteria under which it has been accepted as a Synthetic Polymer of Low Concern. Secondary notification of the notified polymer may be required if any of the circumstances stipulated under subsection 64(2) of the Act arise. No other specific conditions are prescribed.

### **16. REFERENCES**

International Chemical Safety Cards (1999) Di-n-butyltin Oxide. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcs/ipcs0256.html>

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (1994) National Code of Practice for the Preparation of Material Safety Data Sheets [NOHSC:2011(1994)]. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (1995) Adopted National Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment, [NOHSC:1003(1995)]. In: Exposure Standards for Atmospheric Contaminants in the Occupational Environment: Guidance Note and National Exposure Standards. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (1999b) Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(1999)]. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.