

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

### POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

#### Polymer in 80-M 034K Arctic White

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(S)	CHEMICAL OR TRADE NAME	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	INTRODUCTION VOLUME	USE
PLC/1513	BASF Australia Ltd	Polymer in 80-M 034K Arctic White	No	< 2 tonnes per annum	Component of automotive coatings

## 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 component of automotive 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 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(s)

80-M 034K Arctic White (product containing the notified polymer at < 5% 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	Solid*
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temperature	Not determined. The notified polymer will not be isolated from the manufactured organic dispersions.
Density	1,030 kg/m <sup>3</sup>
Water Solubility	Not determined. The notified polymer is expected to have low water solubility based on its predominantly hydrophobic structure and high molecular weight.
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions.
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use.
* Neat form of the notified polymer will not be imported.	

### 5. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION

The notified polymer will not be manufactured in Australia. The notified polymer will be imported into Australia as a component of finished automotive coating products at < 5% concentration in 0.5 L plastic bottles. The finished automotive coating products will be used without local reformulation or repackaging.

**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	< 2	< 2	< 2	< 2	< 2

**Use**

The notified polymer will be used as a component of automotive coatings at concentrations of < 5% for aftermarket vehicle body repairs.

**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.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

No ecotoxicological data were submitted. Polymers without significant ionic functionality are generally of low concern to the environment.

The notified polymer will not be manufactured or reformulated in Australia. It will be imported as a component of finished automotive coatings. These coatings will be used by professional painters and applied to vehicle bodies in a spray booth using spray guns. As estimated by the notifier, approximately 30% of the import volume of the notified polymer could be released as overspray during use. The overspray is expected to be collected and cured on spray booth filters and water scrubbers before disposal to landfill in accordance with local government regulations. The notifier estimates that up to 5% of the import volume of the notified polymer could be released from application equipment cleaning, and up to 0.5% of the import volume of the notified polymer could remain as residues in empty containers. These wastes are expected to be collected for disposal to landfill in accordance with local government regulations. 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 the 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 or being disposed of to landfill at the end of their useful lives. During metal reclamation, the notified polymer will thermally decompose to form water vapour and oxides of carbon. 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. The notified polymer in landfill is expected to eventually degrade via biotic and abiotic processes to form water and oxides of carbon.

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

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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>.