

File No PLC/847

August 2009

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

FULL PUBLIC REPORT

GC-501

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**GC-501****1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS**

APPLICANT(S)

Konica Minolta Business Solutions Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 50 001 065 096)
22 Giffnock Avenue
North Ryde, NSW 2113

NOTIFICATION CATEGORY

Polymer of Low Concern

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 Use Details.

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

Canada

2. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL

MARKETING NAME(S)

GC-501
Nittait HL-701L

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:	Columnar pellet approximately 3mm in diameter
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	68°C
Density	940 kg/m ³ at 23°C
Water Solubility	Expected to be very low (< 0.1 mg/L) based on the structure.
Particle Size	3mm diameter
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	300	500	500	500

Use

The notified polymer will be used as an adhesive for bookbinding.

The notified polymer will not be reformulated. The imported pellets of the notified polymer are added directly to the bookbinding machine.

Mode of Introduction and Disposal

The notified polymer will be imported as pellets in sealed plastic bags packed in individual corrugated board boxes.

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

Exposure may occur when the pellets are poured into the printing machines, however minimal contact occurs due to the pellets being poured directly from the plastic packaging.

Overall, the OHS risk presented by the notified polymer is expected to be low, based on the minimal exposure to workers and the low intrinsic hazard of the polymer.

Public Health Risk Assessment

The public may be exposed to the notified polymer when handling books bound with the notified polymer

Overall, the risk presented by the notified polymer to the public is not considered unacceptable based on the negligible exposure and the low intrinsic hazard of the polymer

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Hazard Characterisation

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

Environmental Risk Assessment

The notified polymer is not expected to be released during use as it is formulated as pellets which are poured into dedicated equipment, but may be thermally decomposed or sent to landfill when books are recycled or discarded. 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.

- 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 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 an adhesive for bookbinding, 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 notified polymer provided by the notifier was reviewed by NICNAS. The accuracy of the information on the MSDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.