

File No PLC/1113

June 2013

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

**POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN FULL PUBLIC REPORT**

**Polymer in VISCOPLEX 14/6871**

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 notification has been carried out under the signed cooperative arrangement(s) with Canada. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the Department of Health and Ageing. In conjunction with the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, NICNAS conducts the risk assessment for environmental, public health and occupational health and safety.

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 Level 7, 260 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010.

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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## 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/1113	Evonik Australia Pty Ltd	Polymer in VISCOPLEX 14/6871	No	≤ 15 tonnes per annum	Additive for fuel oils and lubricants

## CONCLUSIONS AND REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS

### Human health and environmental risk assessment

Based on the information provided, the notified polymer is expected to be of low risk to human health and the environment.

### Recommendations

#### 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.
- 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 *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.

Guidance in selection of personal protective equipment can be obtained from Australian, Australian/New Zealand or other approved standards.

#### Disposal

- The notified polymer should be disposed of in accordance with local regulations for recycling, re-use or recovery of calorific content.

#### 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 being an additive for fuel oils and lubricants, or is likely to change significantly;
  - the amount of notified polymer being introduced has increased from 15 tonnes per annum, 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 (M)SDS of the product containing the notified polymer provided by the notifier was reviewed by NICNAS. The accuracy of the information on the (M)SDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

## **ASSESSMENT DETAILS**

### **1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS**

**Applicant**

Evonik Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 31 145 739 608)  
Suites 33&37, 1 Ricketts Road  
MT WAVERLY, VIC 3194

**Exempt Information (Section 75 of the Act)**

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication:

Chemical Name, CAS Number, Molecular and Structural Formulae, Molecular Weight, Polymer Constituents, Use Details, Import Volume, and Site of Reformulation

**Previous Notification in Australia by Applicant(s)**

No

**Notification in Other Countries**

Canada (2012)

### **2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER**

**Marketing Name(s)**

VISCOPLEX 14/6871 (product containing the notified polymer)

**Molecular Weight (MW)**

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) > 10,000 Da

**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. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Tonnes</i>	15	15	15	15	15

##### Details of Use

The notified polymer will be imported as part of a product in 175 kg drums or intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) via ship. The notified polymer will be used at concentration < 0.5% as an ingredient in biofuels and heavy fuel oils.

#### 5. HAZARD ASSESSMENT

No toxicological data were submitted. The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and no structure alerts were identified. The notified polymer can therefore be assumed to be of low hazard.