

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

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in TIRES D632/48

This Assessment has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (Cwlth) (the Act) and Regulations. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the Australian Government 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 Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

For the purposes of subsection 78(1) of the Act, this Public Report may be inspected at our NICNAS office by appointment only at Level 7, 260 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010.

This 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(S)	CHEMICAL OR TRADE NAME	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	INTRODUCTION VOLUME	USE
PLC/1139	Resene Paints (Australia) Limited Nuplex Industries (Aust) Pty Ltd	TIRES D632/48	No	≤ 300 tonnes per annum	Surface coating for furniture and wood panelling

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 (M)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, 2012) 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 for the 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.

Environmental Recommendations

- No specific control measures are required to minimise release of the notified polymer to the environment.

Disposal

- The notified polymer should be disposed to landfill.

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 surface coating for furniture and wood panelling], or is likely to change significantly;
 - the amount of notified polymer being introduced has increased, or is likely to increase, significantly;
 - the method of manufacture of the notified polymer in Australia has changed, or is likely to change, in a way that may result in an increased risk of an adverse effect of the notified polymer on occupational health and safety, public health, or the environment;
 - 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.

(Material) Safety Data Sheet

The (M)SDS of the notified polymer was provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the (M)SDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

Applicants

Nuplex Industries (Aust) Pty Ltd (ABN 25 00 045 572)
Building 1, Suite 15, 22 Powers Road
Seven Hills NSW 2147

Resene Paints (Australia) Limited (ABN 050 034 529)
P O Box 785
Ashmore City QLD 4214

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, reactive functional groups polymer constituents, residual monomers/impurities, use details, and manufacture/import volume.

2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER**Marketing Name(s)**

TIRES D632/48 (contains < 60% notified polymer)

Molecular Weight

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) is > 1,000 Da

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	Clear Amber Liquid (product)
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	Not Determined
Density	Polymer: 0.906 kg/m ³ at 25 (theoretical) Solution: 0.8934 kg/m ³ at 25 (actual)
Water Solubility	Not determined. Expected to be low based on its predominantly hydrophobic structure and high molecular weight.
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	50-100	100-300	100-300	100-300	100-300

Use

The notified polymer will be used in surface coatings for furniture and wood panelling. The notified polymer will be manufactured within Australia to form an intermediate product where the polymer will be present at a concentration of < 60%. This intermediate product will be reformulated into finished products containing the notified polymer at a concentration of < 30%. The notified polymer will be introduced as part of an intermediate product at concentrations < 60% for further reformulation as well as in finished products at a concentration of < 30%. The surface coatings will be applied by spray, roller and brush by professional painters, with PPE expected to be used. The products

containing the notified polymer will be predominantly used by professional trade painters, but may have some domestic sales.

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.

During manufacture, reformulation and the professional use of coatings, the notified polymer may be released to the environment as spills and container residues. These releases are expected to be collected and either sent to landfill or a licensed waste contractors. Equipment used to manufacture and reformulate the notified polymer may be washed with solvent. The washings are expected to be treated so that notified polymer is removed and disposed to landfill.

During professional use, product containing the notified polymer will be applied by spray techniques. It is expected that approximately 20-60% of the coating product will be in the form of overspray during spraying operations and will typically entail landfill disposal, after being collected. Residues containing the notified polymer on brushes and rollers are expected to be rinsed into containers and then allowed to cure before disposal, as solid wastes, to landfill.

Some of the notified polymer will be incorporated into products available to the do it yourself (DIY) market. DIY users are expected to apply products by brushes and rollers, using similar practices to professional users. However, approximately 5% of the notified polymer used by DIY users may be incorrectly disposed of to the sewer, drains or ground from waste and washing of application equipment. Assuming the releases occur nationwide and equally over the entire year, this is unlikely to lead to ecotoxicologically relevant concentrations of the notified polymer in the aquatic environment.

The fate of the coating cured on the substrate will be shared with the fate of the coated article, which ultimately is expected to be to landfill. In landfill, the notified polymer will be present in high molecular weight cured solids which will be neither bioavailable nor mobile. Furthermore, the notified polymer is also not expected to bioaccumulate due to its high molecular weight. It is expected to eventually degrade in the environment to form oxides of carbon and nitrogen, and water vapour. Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard and assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.