

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME (NICNAS)

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

NP023

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/1431	AHG Coatings Pty Ltd Nippon Paint (India) Pvt Ltd	NP023	No	< 3 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

- Water insoluble high molecular weight polymers used in the respirable size range (< 10µm) have the potential to cause lung overloading. Respiratory protection and local exhaust ventilation should be used to prevent inhalation exposure.

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 a 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 a 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

AHG Coatings Pty Ltd (ABN: 33 609 750 558)
21 Old Aberdeen Place
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Nippon Paint (India) Pvt Ltd (ARBN: 619 138 868)
C/o Thomson Geer
Level 25, 1 O'Connell Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

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)

NP023

Molecular Weight

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) is > 10,000 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	Colourless liquid (product)
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	Not determined
Density	900-1,000 kg/m ³ at 25 °C*
Water Solubility	Not determined. The notified polymer is expected to be insoluble in water.
Dissociation Constant	Not determined. The notified polymer contains potential anionic functionalities with a typical pKa ~ 4. It is expected to be ionised in the environmental pH range (4 - 9).
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use

*Density of the product containing the notified polymer

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	< 2	< 2	< 2	< 2	< 3

Use

The notified polymer will be imported as a component of automotive refinish coatings at ≤ 10% concentration. The notified polymer will not be reformulated or repackaged in Australia and will not be available to the general public. Products containing the notified chemical will be applied by spray.

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. However it has a high molecular weight with species > 70,000 Da and is expected to be water insoluble, therefore lung overloading may occur if respirable particles are inhaled during spray painting. Provided that proper control measures are employed to reduce the inhalation exposure during this process, the risk to workers posed by exposure to the notified polymer is not

considered unreasonable. Overall the risk of the notified polymer to workers and the public is not considered to be unreasonable.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Anionic polymers are generally of low toxicity to fish and daphnia, however they can be moderately toxic to algae. The mode of toxic action is over-chelation of nutrient elements needed by algae for growth. The highest toxicity is when the acid is on alternating carbons of the polymer backbone. However, this does not apply to the notified polymer, and it is therefore not considered to be an over-chelation hazard to algae.

The notified polymer will be formulated overseas and imported in end-use automotive coating products. Accidental spills of the notified polymer during import, transport or storage are expected to be adsorbed onto a suitable material, and collected for disposal of in accordance with local regulations. Up to 2% of the total annual import volume of the notified polymer may remain as residues in empty containers. These residues are expected to be cured in the containers prior to disposal of to landfill along with the containers in accordance with local regulations.

The main release of the notified polymer is likely from overspray during use, estimated by the notifier to account for up to 20% of the total import volume. The overspray will be collected and trapped onto filters and cured before disposal of to landfills. The solvent waste from cleaning of the spray equipment will be collected by a licensed waste contractor, and be disposed of safely.

Most of the notified polymer is expected to share the fate of the coating articles on which it applied to, to be either disposed of to landfill or recycled for metals reclamation. In landfill, the notified polymer will be present as cured solids and will be neither bioavailable nor mobile. The notified polymer is expected to eventually degrade via biotic and abiotic processes to form water and oxides of carbon. During metal reclamation, the notified polymer will thermally decompose to form water vapour and oxides of carbon. The notified polymer is not expected to bioaccumulate given its number average molecular weight is $> 10,000$ Da and it contains no significant percentage of low molecular weight constituents. Furthermore, the notified polymer is expected to be insoluble in water, and significant release of the notified polymer to the aquatic environment is not expected.

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.

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>.