

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME (NICNAS)

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in Aqua Next Yellow

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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Table of Contents

SUMMARY	2
CONCLUSIONS AND REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS.....	2
ASSESSMENT DETAILS.....	3
1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS	3
2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER	3
3. PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION	4
4. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES.....	4
5. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION	4
6. HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT.....	4
7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT	4

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/1089	Toyo Ink Australia Pty Ltd	Polymer in Aqua Next Yellow	No	≤ 100 tonnes per annum	Component of ink

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 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 *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

- Prevent from entering into soil, ditches, sewers, waterways and/or groundwater.
- 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 ink, 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.

Material Safety Data Sheet

The MSDS of the product containing the notified polymer was provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the MSDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

Applicants

Toyo Ink Australia Pty Ltd (ABN 29 006 294 837)
29 Garden Street Kilsyth VIC 3137

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 import volume.

2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER

Marketing Name(s)

Polymer in Aqua Next Yellow

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	Pale-yellow liquid (product)
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	Not determined
Density	1,000 kg/m ³
Water Solubility	≤ 8 g/L at 25 °C. Product containing the notified polymer (1.9 g) was added into different volumes of water (20-240 ml) in flasks. After 24 h shaking, supernatant solutions were filtered. The water solubility was determined from the appearance of filtrate and residues on the filter.
Dissociation Constant	Not determined. The notified polymer is a salt and is expected to be ionised under environmental conditions.
Particle Size	Imported in solution
Reactivity	Stable under normal use conditions.
Degradation Products	None known

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	1-10	10-20	20-50	20-50	50-100

Use

The notified polymer will be imported as a component of ink at ≤ 40% in 18 kg metal cans, 1L plastic bottles or 1 L aluminium foil pouch within a plastic cartridge, and will be used in the printer's commercial printing.

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. Anionic polymers are known to 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. This may occur to some extent in the notified polymer's back bone.

No release of the notified polymer to the environment is expected from manufacture or reformulation as these activities will not occur in Australia. Residual ink in empty import containers (1.5% of the total annual import volume), accidental spills and leaks (0.1%), wastes from cleaning and maintenance operations (0.2%) are expected to be contained and disposed of to landfill. It is estimated that 0.2% of the notified polymer may be released to sewers from cleaning of spills, leaks and application equipment.

The ink containing the notified polymer will be used for commercial printing on a variety of substrates including paper. Notified polymer bound within the dried ink matrix will share the fate of the printed article and be disposed of to landfill or recycled when used on paper. During the paper recycling process, waste paper will be 'repulped' using a variety of alkaline dispersing and wetting agents, water emulsifiable organic solvents and bleaches. Aqueous wastes containing these agents are expected to be sent to the municipal sewage treatment plants (STPs) for processing. Due to the notified polymer's water dispersibility, some release of it to the water column is expected. Based on 50% of the notified polymer being released to the sewer and the water consumption of the Australian population, calculations indicate that the predicted environmental concentration, at worst, will be a maximum of 21.26 µg/L on a nationwide basis [50 tonnes/(22.6 million people × 200 L per person per day × 260 days with 50% sorption to sludge)]. Toxicity of the notified polymer to algae from nutrient over-chelation is not expected to any ecotoxicologically significant extent due to a limited proportion of alternating acids on the notified polymer's carbon backbone. In addition, the presence of calcium ions in the water that bind with chelating functional groups can further reduce the toxicity of the notified polymer. Notified polymer adsorbed to STPs sludge will be disposed of to landfill or applied for soil remediation. In landfill and soils, the notified polymer is expected to eventually degrade to form water and oxides of carbon and nitrogen. Due to its high molecular weight, the notified polymer will not readily cross biological membranes, and a low potential for bioaccumulation is predicted. Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard and assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not expected to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.