

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

**POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT**

**Polymer in Efka SI 2722 and Efka SI 2723**

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.

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:

Street Address: Level 7, 260 Elizabeth Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010, AUSTRALIA.  
 Postal Address: GPO Box 58, SYDNEY NSW 2001, AUSTRALIA.  
 TEL: + 61 2 8577 8800  
 FAX: + 61 2 8577 8888  
 Website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

**Director  
NICNAS**

August 2015

**Table of Contents**

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

## 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/1292	BASF Australia Ltd	Polymer in Efka SI 2722 and Efka SI 2723	No	≤ 10 tonnes per annum	Component of 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

- 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 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 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.

**(Material) Safety Data Sheet**

The (M)SDSs of products containing the notified polymer were provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the (M)SDSs remains the responsibility of the applicant.

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

### 1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

#### Applicants

BASF Australia Ltd (ABN: 62 008 437 867)  
Level 12, 28 Freshwater Place  
Southbank VIC 3006

#### 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, use details and import volume.

### 2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER

#### Marketing Name(s)

Efka SI 2722 (contains the notified polymer at < 20% concentration)  
Efka SI 2723 (contains the notified polymer at < 20% concentration)

#### 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 liquid
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	Not determined
Density	950 kg/m <sup>3</sup> at 20 °C
Water Solubility	Not determined. The notified polymer is expected to have low water solubility based on its high molecular weight, and predominantly hydrophobic structure.
Dissociation Constant	Not determined
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	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10

**Use**

The notified polymer will be imported into Australia as a component of a formulation at < 20% concentration for reformulation into coatings, or as a component of finished coatings for commercial and industrial use. The finished coatings will contain the notified polymer at < 1% concentration and will be predominantly applied to concrete floors. Application will be by roller and squeegee, although spray application may also occur. The finished coatings containing the notified polymer may also be used by DIY users although this is expected to be very limited (i.e. < 1% of introduction volume).

**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.

Reformulation of the notified polymer is expected to be conducted in a closed system. During reformulation, a limited amount of the notified polymer is likely to be released to the environment as spills. The potential for release of the notified polymer from equipment cleaning will be negligible as the solvent used for cleaning is expected to be collected by licensed waste contractors. Empty containers containing the notified polymer are expected to be disposed of accordance with local regulations.

During industrial use, products containing the notified polymer will be applied under industrial settings. The coatings will also be used commercially. The coating application will be by roller, brush and/or spray. It is expected that approximately 20% of the coating product will be in the form of overspray during spraying operations and will typically entail landfill disposal, after interception by spray booth filters, kraft paper or newspaper. Approximately 5% of the notified polymer used by DIY users (i.e. less than 1% of the total introduction volume) 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. It is expected that end use containers will normally be disposed of to landfill.

The fate of the coating containing the notified polymer will be the same as the coated article, which is ultimately expected to be disposed of 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 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 silicon, 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.