

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

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in VISCOPLEX® 8/7312

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:

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|-----------------|---|
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**Director
NICNAS**

April 2014

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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/1188 | Evonik Australia Pty Ltd | Polymer in VISCOPLEX® 8/7312 | No | < 50 tonnes per annum | Additive in hydraulic oils and industrial oils |

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.
- 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.

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 an additive in hydraulic and industrial oils, 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)SDS of the product containing 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

Evonik Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 31 145 739 608)
Suites 33&37, 1 Ricketts Rd,
Mt. Waverley VIC 3149

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)

VISCOPLEX® 8/7312 (contains the notified polymer at 70% concentration)

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 | Yellow viscous liquid ((for VISCOPLEX® 8/7312) |
| Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp | Not available |
| Density | 932.5 kg/m ³ (for VISCOPLEX® 8/7312) |
| Water Extractability | 0.007% at 20 °C, no buffer; < 0.007% at 20 °C, pH 2.0; 0.015% at 20 °C, pH 9.0; 0.012% at 37 °C, pH 7.0. OECD TG 120, |
| Reactivity | Expected to be 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

| Year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Tonnes | 1-10 | 1-10 | 5-50 | 5-50 | 5-50 |

Use

The notified polymer will be imported in solution at 70% concentration and will be used as an additive at < 25% concentration in the formulation of hydraulic and industrial oils.

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.

Although not considered in this risk assessment, NICNAS notes that the notified polymer contains residual monomers that are classified as hazardous according to the *Globally Harmonised System for the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia. These are not present in the notified polymer as introduced above the cut off concentrations for classification.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

No ecotoxicological data were submitted. Polymers without significant ionic functionality are generally of low concern to the environment.

Based on its use as an additive in the formulation of hydraulic and industrial lubricating oils, the notified polymer is expected to have limited potential for release to the aquatic environment. The majority of the imported quantity of notified polymer is expected to be thermally decomposed to water and oxides of carbon during use or as a result of waste oil re-use or recycling. Any spilt product during blending processes or use is expected to be contained and disposed of in accordance with local regulations. Release of the notified polymer from cleaning of the blending equipment and empty containers is estimated to be less than 0.2% of the total import volume. A fraction of the notified polymer may be released to soil from equipment leaks where it is expected to adsorb to soil particles based on its hydrophobicity. The notified polymer is not expected to cross biological membranes due to its high molecular weight and it is therefore not expected to bioaccumulate.

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.