

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME (NICNAS)

POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in Urotuf F108-T8W-45

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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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	5
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/1517	Polynt Composites Australia Pty Ltd DIC Australia Pty Ltd Rust-Oleum Australia Pty Ltd	Polymer in Urotuf F108-T8W-45	No	≤ 1,800 tonnes per annum	Component of paints and 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 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 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 being a component of paints and 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 the 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

Polynt Composites Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 29 138 442 298)
14 Tullamarine Park Road
TULLAMARINE VIC 3043

DIC Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 12 000 079 550)
323 Chisholm Road
AUBURN NSW 2144

Rust-Oleum Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 86 112 409 923)
Unit 12, 4 Southridge Street
EASTERN CREEK NSW 2766

Exempt Information (Section 75 of the Act)

Data items and details exempt from publication include: 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)

Urotuf F108-T8W-45 (product containing the notified polymer)

Molecular Weight

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) is > 1,000 g/mol

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	Milky white liquid with amine smell*
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temperature	Not determined
Density	1,019-1,042 kg/m ³ at 25°C*
Water Solubility	Dispersible
Dissociation Constant	Not determined. The notified polymer is a salt and expected to be ionised in the environmental pH range of 4 – 9.
Particle Size	Imported in aqueous dispersion
Reactivity	Stable under normal conditions of use
Degradation Products	None known

*Product containing the notified polymer

5. INTRODUCTION AND USE INFORMATION

Maximum Introduction Volume of Notified Chemical (100%) Over Next 5 Years

Year	1	2	3	4	5
Tonnes	≤ 1,200	≤ 1,500	≤ 1,800	≤ 1,500	≤ 1,200

Use

The notified polymer will be imported as part of a dispersion at a concentration of ≤ 50% by weight, and reformulated into paints and coatings. The paints will be used by workers and the public, and may be applied by brush, roller or spray. Spray application will be carried out in spray booths.

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 may contain residual monomers that are classified as hazardous according to the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT

No ecotoxicological data were submitted for the notified polymer. The notified polymer contains potentially cationic functionalities, but overall has a low charge density. Polymers with a low cationic charge density (FGEW > 5000) are generally of low concern to the environment.

The notified polymer will be imported into Australia as a component of aqueous dispersions for reformulation into end-use paints and coatings. Any waste produced during the reformulation processes is expected to be disposed of through an approved waste management facility. Release of the notified polymer to the environment in the event of accidental spills or leaks during reformulation, storage, transport and use is expected to be absorbed on suitable materials and disposed of to landfill, in accordance with local government regulations.

The paints and coatings will be used by professional workers and the public, and may be applied by brush, roller or spray. The main release of the notified polymer is likely from overspray during use, which will be collected and trapped onto spray booth filters before disposal to landfill. The liquid waste from cleaning of professional application equipment is expected to be collected by an approved waste contractor, and disposed of safely. As the worst case scenario, it is assumed that up to 5% of the total annual import volume of notified polymer used by do-it-yourself (DIY) users may be incorrectly disposed of to the sewer, drains, or ground from waste and washing of application equipment. Assuming a worst-case where DIY users are the vast majority of users and the releases occur nationwide over the entire year with no removal of the notified polymer during wastewater treatment, the predicted environmental concentration (PEC) is estimated to be 50.6 µg/L [$0.05 \times 1,800,000 \text{ kg/year} \div 365 \text{ days/year} \div (24.386 \text{ million persons} \times 200 \text{ L/person/day})$]. As the notified polymer is expected to be generally of low concern to the aquatic environment, the release of the notified polymer is not expected to lead to ecotoxicologically significant concentrations in the aquatic environment.

Most of the notified polymer is expected to share the fate of the articles to which it has been applied, to be disposed of to landfill at the end of their useful lives. As estimated by the notifier, up to 1% of the import volume of the notified polymer may remain as residues in empty containers. These residues are expected to be disposed of to landfill, in accordance with local government regulations. In landfill,

the notified polymer will be present as cured solids and will be neither bioavailable nor mobile. The notified polymer is not expected to bioaccumulate due to its high molecular weight. The notified polymer in landfill and water is expected to eventually degrade via biotic and abiotic processes to form water and oxides of carbon and nitrogen.

Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern as a component in paints and coatings, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.