

File No PLC/882

December 2009

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

FULL PUBLIC REPORT

Polymer in Polyplex 5035

This Assessment has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (Cwlth) (the Act) and Regulations. This legislation is an Act of the Commonwealth of Australia. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the 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 Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts.

For the purposes of subsection 78(1) of the Act, this Full Public Report may be inspected at our NICNAS office by appointment only at 334-336 Illawarra Road, Marrickville NSW 2204.

This Full 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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FULL PUBLIC REPORT**Polymer in Polyplex 5035****1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS**

APPLICANT(S)

Nuplex Industries (Aust) Pty Ltd (ABN 25 000 045 572)
49-61 Stephen Road, BOTANY NSW 2019

NOTIFICATION CATEGORY

Polymer of Low Concern

EXEMPT INFORMATION (SECTION 75 OF THE ACT)

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication:

Chemical Name, Other Names, Molecular and Structural Formulae, Molecular Weight, Polymer Constituents, Residual Monomers/Impurities, Use Details, Manufacture/Import Volume, and Site of Manufacture/Reformulation

VARIATION OF DATA REQUIREMENTS (SECTION 24 OF THE ACT)

No variation to the schedule of data requirements is claimed.

PREVIOUS NOTIFICATION IN AUSTRALIA BY APPLICANT(S)

None

NOTIFICATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

None

2. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL

MARKETING NAME(S)

Polyplex 5035

MOLECULAR WEIGHT (MW)

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) > 1,000 Da

REACTIVE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS

The notified polymer contains only low concern functional groups.

3. PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION*Criterion*

Molecular Weight Requirements
Functional Group Equivalent Weight (FGEW) Requirements
Low Charge Density
Approved Elements Only
Stable Under Normal Conditions of Use
Not Water Absorbing
Not a Hazard Substance or Dangerous Good

Criterion met

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria.

4. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance at 20°C and 101.3 kPa:	Clear, pale yellow semi solid
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	< 10°C (estimated)
Density	1160 kg/m ³ at 20°C
Water Solubility	Not determined. The notified polymer is considered to be insoluble in water based on its highly hydrophobic structure.
Dissociation Constant	Dissociation is not expected since the notified polymer does not contain any dissociable functional groups.
Particle Size	Not isolated from solution.
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions. While the notified polymer contains hydrolysable functionality, hydrolysis is not expected in the environmental pH range of 4-9.
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	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5

Use

Component for composite fabrication.

The notified polymer will be manufactured and reformulated to produce finished resins which will be sprayed in the fabrication of composites for tooling and marine applications.

Mode of Introduction and Disposal

The notified polymer will be manufactured in Australia, or imported, as a < 80% dispersion in styrene.

6. HUMAN HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Hazard Characterisation

No toxicological data were submitted. The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and can therefore be considered to be of low hazard.

Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment

Dermal and ocular exposure may potentially occur during certain processes involving the notified polymer. However, exposure to significant amounts of the notified polymer is limited because of the largely automated processes, and the engineering controls and personal protective equipment worn by workers.

If respirable or inhalable aerosol particles are generated by spray application, a higher level of controls, including respiratory protection, would be required to avoid inhalation exposure.

Overall, the OHS risk presented by the notified polymer is not considered to be unacceptable, based on the minimal exposure to workers and the assumed low hazard of the polymer.

Public Health Risk Assessment

The notified polymer will not be available to the public. Members of the public may make dermal contact with products containing the notified polymer. However, the risk to public health will be negligible because the notified polymer is assumed to be of low hazard, and is entrapped within a cured composite where it is considered immobile and inert.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Hazard Characterisation

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

Environmental Risk Assessment

The notified polymer will be partially imported and partially manufactured in Australia for further formulation and end-use in the composite industry. Most of the notified polymer will be end up in landfill, via disposal of either the releases of the notified polymer during these processes or the composite articles containing the notified polymer at the end of the useful life. In the landfill, the notified polymer will stick to the soil and undergo slowly biotic and abiotic degradation processes, forming water and oxides of carbon.

Based on the above proposed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the environment.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Human health risk assessment

Under the conditions of the occupational settings described, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk to the health of workers.

When used in the proposed manner, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unacceptable risk to public health.

Environmental risk assessment

Based on the reported use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose a risk to the environment.

Recommendations

CONTROL MEASURES

Occupational Health and Safety

- 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.

- Spray application should be carried out in accordance with the National Guidance Material for Spray Painting (NOHSC 1999).
- 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 *Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances* [NOHSC:1008(2004)], workplace practices and control procedures consistent with provisions of State and Territory hazardous substances legislation must be in operation.

Disposal

- The notified polymer should be disposed of to landfill.

Emergency procedures

- Spills and/or accidental release of the notified polymer should be handled by physical containment, collection and subsequent safe disposal.

Regulatory Obligations

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 for composite fabrication, or is likely to change significantly;
 - the amount of notified polymer being introduced has increased, or is likely to increase, significantly;
 - the method of manufacture of the notified polymer in Australia has changed, or is likely to change, in a way that may result in an increased risk of an adverse effect of the notified polymer on occupational health and safety, public health, or the environment;
 - additional information has become available to the person as to an adverse effect of the chemical 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 provided by the notifier was reviewed by NICNAS. The accuracy of the information on the MSDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.