

File No PLC/863

October 2009

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

**FULL PUBLIC REPORT**

**Polymer in AK1101P**

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 AK1101P****1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS**

## APPLICANT(S)

The Valspar (Australia) Corporation Pty Limited (ABN: 82 000 039 396)  
203 Power Street, Glendenning NSW 2761

## NOTIFICATION CATEGORY

Polymer of Low Concern

## EXEMPT INFORMATION (SECTION 75 OF THE ACT)

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication:

Chemical Name, CAS Number, Molecular Formula, Structural Formulae, Molecular Weight, Polymer Constituents, Residual Monomers, Use Details, Import Volume.

## 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)

No

## NOTIFICATION IN OTHER COUNTRIES

No

**2. IDENTITY OF CHEMICAL**

## MARKETING NAME(S)

AK1101P

KKC0544/KKC0546 sealers (products containing the notified polymer)

## 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 plastic solid (expected)
Glass Transition Temp	18°C
Density	1249 kg/m <sup>3</sup> (temperature unknown)
Water Solubility	< 0.01%. Estimated based on the structural formula information. The notified polymer is not expected to be soluble in water given its mainly hydrophobic structure.
Dissociation Constant	Dissociation is not expected since the notified polymer does not contain any dissociable functional groups.
Particle Size	Not determined as the notified polymer has never been isolated as a solid.
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions. The notified polymer contains hydrolysable functional groups. However, hydrolysis is unlikely to occur 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	3-10	3-10	3-10	3-10	3-10

##### Use

The notified polymer is to be used in clear and pigmented varnishes for cementitious and wood substrates.

##### Mode of Introduction and Disposal

The notified polymer will be imported as a part of coating formulation at 20 to 50% concentration. Subsequently the notified polymer and coating formulation will be manufactured in Australia at Valspar's Glendenning Plant. The imported or manufactured formulations will be used as such and no further reformulation will take place in Australia.

#### 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, ocular and inhalation exposure may potentially occur during certain processes involving the notified polymer. However, exposure to significant amounts of the notified polymer is limited because workers handling these coatings have been trained in safe handling of coatings and will use dedicated coating equipment and personal protective equipment such as safety glasses, gloves and protective clothing.

After application and once dried, the paint containing the notified polymer is cured into an inert matrix and the polymer is hence unavailable to 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 is intended only for use in industry and as such, public exposure to the notified polymer is not expected. Following application, the notified polymer will become trapped within a film and will not be bioavailable. Therefore, based on low hazard and very low exposure to the notified polymer, the risk to public from exposure to the notified polymer is not considered unacceptable.

## 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

Most of the notified polymer will be end up in landfill either via disposal of waste from manufacturing or reformulation processes, or by sharing the final fate of the building substrates with which it is associated which will occur at the end of the building's useful life.

In landfill, leaching is not expected based on the low water solubility and mainly hydrophobic nature of the notified polymer. Therefore, the notified polymer will undergo biotic and abiotic degradation processes, forming small molecules of water and oxides of carbon.

The notified polymer is not expected to pose an unacceptable risk to the environment based on the reported use pattern.

## 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.

- 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 of industrial coating, 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 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.