

TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination for Premanufacture Notice (PMN) P-18-0179-181

Number: P-18-0179-0181

TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination: The chemical substances are not likely to present an unreasonable risk (5(a)(3)(C))

Chemical Name:

Generic (P-18-0179): Phenol, polymer with formaldehyde and phenolic resin, sodium salt

Generic (P-18-0180): Phenol, polymer with formaldehyde and phenolic resin, potassium salt

Generic (P-18-0181): Phenol, polymer with formaldehyde and phenolic resin, potassium sodium salt

Conditions of Use (intended, known, or reasonably foreseen)¹:

Intended conditions of use (generic): Manufacture and import for use as an adhesive, consistent with the manufacturing, processing, use, distribution, and disposal information described in the PMN.

Known conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are known conditions of use and found none.

Reasonably foreseen conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are reasonably foreseen conditions of use and found none.

Summary: The chemical substances are not likely to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or other nonrisk factors, including an unreasonable risk to a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation identified as relevant by the Administrator under the conditions of use, based on the risk assessment presented below. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substances could be very persistent, the new chemical substances have low potential for bioaccumulation, such that repeated exposures are not expected to be cumulative. Based on EPA's TSCA New Chemicals Category for Polyanionic

¹ Under TSCA § 3(4), the term "conditions of use" means "the circumstances, as determined by the Administrator, under which a chemical substance is intended, known, or reasonably foreseen to be manufactured, processed, distributed in commerce, used, or disposed of." In general, EPA considers the intended conditions of use of a new chemical substance to be those identified in the section 5(a) notification. Known conditions of use include activities within the United States that result from manufacture that is exempt from PMN submission requirements. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use are future circumstances, distinct from known or intended conditions of use, under which the Administrator expects the chemical substance to be manufactured, processed, distributed, used, or disposed of. The identification of "reasonably foreseen" conditions of use will necessarily be a case-by-case determination and will be highly fact-specific. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use will not be based on hypotheticals or conjecture. EPA's identification of conditions of use includes the expectation of compliance with federal and state laws, such as worker protection standards or disposal restrictions, unless case-specific facts indicate otherwise. Accordingly, EPA will apply its professional judgment, experience, and discretion when considering such factors as evidence of current use of the new chemical substance outside the United States, evidence that the PMN substance is sufficiently likely to be used for the same purposes as existing chemical substances that are structurally analogous to the new chemical substance, and conditions of use identified in an initial PMN submission that the submitter omits in a revised PMN. The sources EPA uses to identify reasonably foreseen conditions of use include searches of internal confidential EPA PMN databases (containing use information on analogue chemicals), other U.S. government public sources, the National Library of Medicine's Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), the Chemical Abstract Service STN Platform, REACH Dossiers, technical encyclopedias (e.g., Kirk-Othmer and Ullmann), and Internet searches.

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Polymers (& Monomers)², test data on analogous chemical substances, and physical/chemical properties, EPA estimates that the new chemical substances have moderate environmental hazard and potential for the following human health hazards: corrosion and irritation to eyes, skin, lungs and mucous membranes. EPA concludes that the new chemical substances are not likely to present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use.

Fate: Environmental fate is the determination of which environmental compartment(s) a chemical moves to, the expected residence time in the environmental compartment(s) and removal and degradation processes. Environmental fate is an important factor in determining exposure and thus in determining whether a chemical may present an unreasonable risk. EPA estimated physical/chemical and fate properties of the new chemical substances using data for analogous chemical substances. The chemical substances are estimated to be removed during wastewater treatment with an efficiency of 75% to 90% via sorption. For the new chemical substances, removal by biodegradation is estimated to be negligible based on high molecular volume. Sorption to sludge is estimated to be strong, and sorption to soil and sediment is estimated to be very strong, resulting in negligible migration to groundwater for the new chemical substances. Volatilization to air is estimated to be negligible because of the high molecular volume. Overall, these estimates are indicative of low potential for these chemical substances to volatilize into the air and a low potential for these chemical substances to migrate into groundwater.

Persistence³: Persistence is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because chemicals that are not degraded in the environment at rates that prevent substantial buildup in the environment, and thus increase potential for exposure, may present a risk if the substance presents a hazard to human health or the environment. Based on data for analogous chemical substances, EPA estimated the aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation half-lives of the new chemical substances to be greater than six months. These estimates for biodegradation indicate that the new chemical substances may be very persistent in aerobic environments (e.g., surface water) or anaerobic environments (e.g., sediment).

Bioaccumulation⁴: Bioaccumulation is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because substances that bioaccumulate in aquatic and/or terrestrial species pose the potential for elevated exposures to humans and other organisms via

² TSCA New Chemicals Program (NCP) Chemical Categories. <https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/chemical-categories-used-review-new>.

³ Persistence: A chemical substance is considered to have limited persistence if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediment of less than 2 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 2 months but less than or equal to 6 months or if there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 6 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4, 1999)

⁴ Bioaccumulation: A chemical substance is considered to have a low potential for bioaccumulation if there are bioconcentration factors (BCF) or bioaccumulation factors (BAF) of less than 1,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 1,000 or greater and less than or equal to 5,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 5,000 or greater or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4 1999)

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food chains. The new chemical substances have low bioaccumulation potential based on data for analogous chemical substances, in addition to large predicted molecular volume, which limits bioavailability and bioaccumulation. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substances could be very persistent, the new chemical substances have low potential for bioaccumulation, such that repeated exposures are not expected to cause food chain effects via accumulation in exposed organisms.

Human Health Hazard⁵: Human health hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA estimated the human health hazard of these chemical substances based on their estimated physical/chemical properties and by comparing them to structurally analogous chemical substances for which there is information on human health hazard. Absorption of the new chemical substances is expected to be nil to poor via all exposure routes based on physical/chemical properties. For the new chemical substances, EPA identified irritation and corrosion as hazards based on the alkaline pH (10.7 to 11.75) of the PMN substances.

Environmental Hazard⁶: Environmental hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA determined environmental hazard for these new chemical substances based on SAR predictions for polyanionic polymers (special class within ECOSAR v.2.0) and test data for

⁵ A chemical substance is considered to have low human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) equal to or greater than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have moderate human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a NOAEL less than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have high human health hazard if there is evidence of adverse effects in humans or conclusive evidence of severe effects in animal studies with a NOAEL of less than or equal to 10 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances. EPA may also use Benchmark Dose Levels (BMDL) derived from benchmark dose (BMD) modeling as points of departure for toxic effects. See <https://www.epa.gov/bmds/what-benchmark-dose-software-bmds>. Using this approach, a BMDL is associated with a benchmark response, for example a 5 or 10 % incidence of effect. The aforementioned characterizations of hazard (low, medium, high) would also apply to BMDLs. In the absence of animal data on a chemical or analogous chemical substance, EPA may use other data or information such as from in vitro assays, chemical categories (e.g., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2014 Guidance on Grouping of Chemicals, Second Edition. ENV/JM/MONO(2014)4. Series on Testing & Assessment No. 194. Environment Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France. ([http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2014\)4&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2014)4&doclanguage=en))), structure-activity relationships, and/or structural alerts to support characterizing human health hazards.

⁶ A chemical substance is considered to have low ecotoxicity hazard if the Fish, Daphnid and Algae LC50 values are greater than 100 mg/L, or if the Fish and Daphnid chronic values (ChVs) are greater than 10.0 mg/L, or there are not effects at saturation (occurs when water solubility of a chemical substance is lower than an effect concentration), or the log Kow value exceeds QSAR cut-offs. A chemical substance is considered to have moderate ecotoxicity hazard if the lowest of the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s is greater than 1 mg/L and less than 100 mg/L, or where the Fish or Daphnid ChVs are greater than 0.1 mg/L and less than 10.0 mg/L. A chemical substance is considered to have high ecotoxicity hazard, or if either the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s are less than 1 mg/L, or any Fish or Daphnid ChVs is less than 0.1 mg/L (Sustainable Futures <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-futures/sustainable-futures-p2-framework-manual>).

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an analogous chemical substance. Acute toxicity values estimated for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and algae are >100 mg/L (SAR predictions for polyanionic polymers), >100 mg/L (SAR predictions for polyanionic polymers), and 62.3 mg/L (analogue test data), respectively. Chronic toxicity values estimated for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and algae are >10 mg/L (SAR predictions for polyanionic polymers), >10 mg/L (SAR predictions for polyanionic polymers), and 35.4 mg/L (analogue test data), respectively. These toxicity values indicate that the new chemical substances are expected to have moderate environmental hazard. Application of assessment factors of 4 and 10 to acute and chronic toxicity values, respectively, results in acute and chronic concentrations of concern of 15.575 mg/L (15,575 ppb) and 3.540 mg/L (3,540 ppb), respectively.

Exposure: The exposure to a new chemical substance is potentially relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risks because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance.

EPA estimates occupational exposure and environmental release of the new chemical substance under the intended conditions of use described in the PMN using ChemSTEER (Chemical Screening Tool for Exposures and Environmental Releases; <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/chemsteer-chemical-screening-tool-exposures-and-environmental-releases>). EPA uses EFAST (the Exposure and Fate Assessment Screening Tool; <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/e-fast-exposure-and-fate-assessment-screening-tool-version-2014>) to estimate general population, consumer, and environmental exposures.

EPA considers workers to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation (PESS) on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population. EPA also considers PESS in conducting general population drinking water exposures by evaluating risks associated with water intake rates for multiple age groups, ranging from infants to adults. EPA considers consumers of specific products to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population who do not use specific products.

For this new chemical assessment, EPA assessed exposure to workers via the dermal route, and inhalation exposure to workers is not expected. Releases to water and air were estimated. Exposure to the general population was assessed via drinking water and inhalation routes. Exposure to the general population via fish ingestion was not assessed because the new chemical substances are not expected to be bioaccumulative. Exposures to consumers were not assessed because consumer uses were not identified as conditions of use.

Risk Characterization: EPA assesses risks to workers considering engineering controls described in the PMN but in the absence of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and respirators. If risks are preliminarily identified, EPA then considers whether the risks would be mitigated by the use of PPE (e.g., impervious gloves, respirator).

Risks to human health for the new chemical substance were qualitatively evaluated based on the irritation and corrosion hazards due to the alkaline pH. Risks for irritation and corrosion for

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workers via dermal exposures cannot be quantified due to lack of dose-response information for these hazards, and inhalation exposures are not expected. Exposures can be controlled by the appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves. EPA expects that workers will use appropriate PPE consistent with the Safety Data Sheet prepared by the submitter, in a manner adequate to protect them.

Risks were not identified for irritation and corrosion effects for the general population from oral exposure to drinking water or inhalation exposure because these hazards are expected to be mitigated by dilution in the media. Risks to consumers were not evaluated because consumer uses were not identified as conditions of use.

Risks to the environment were evaluated by comparing estimated surface water concentrations with the acute and chronic concentrations of concern. Risks to the environment were not identified due to estimated relevant surface water concentrations that did not exceed the acute COC and exceeded the chronic COC for fewer than 20 days/year⁷.

Because worker exposures can be controlled by PPE, no unreasonable risks to the general population or environment were identified, and there are no expected consumer exposures, EPA has determined that the new chemical substance is not likely to present unreasonable risk to human health or the environment under the conditions of use.

3/28/19
Date:

/s/
Tala R. Henry, Ph.D.
Acting Deputy Director for Programs
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics

⁷ The 20-day criterion for concluding chronic risk is not likely is based on partial life cycle tests (daphnid chronic and fish early life stage tests) that typically range from 21 to 28 days in duration.