

Customer Information Note

REACH – Substances of Very High Concern

According to the REACH regulation, SVHC are substances that present hazards with serious consequences, e.g. they cause cancer, or have other severely hazardous properties, and/or remain in the environment for a long time with the potential of accumulation in living organisms.

Substances meeting these criteria may be placed as a first step on a list that is defined in the REACH Regulation: the so called 'Candidate List'. It is possible that some substances that meet the criteria will not appear on this list.

Once a substance is placed on the Candidate List, the following specific responsibilities are placed on suppliers of mixtures such as printing inks or related products.

Suppliers of a mixture not classified as hazardous according to Regulation 1272/2008 (EC) (CLP) have to provide the recipients on request, with a safety data sheet if the mixture contains at least one substance on the Candidate List, present at concentration of at least 0.1% (w/w) for non-gaseous mixtures.

In the case of mixtures classified as hazardous, a safety data sheet must be issued anyway and SVHC must then be specified in chapter 3, if present at a concentration of at least 0.1% (w/w).

EuPIA members strive to minimize any content of SVHC in their product portfolio wherever possible. Most of the chemicals that have been entered in the SVHC Candidate List so far are substances classified as toxic, very toxic, carcinogenic, mutagenic, and/or toxic for reproduction. Those substances are excluded by the EuPIA Exclusion Policy anyway and are therefore generally not used as raw materials for printing inks.

However, potential future classifications cannot be foreseen. The responsible European bodies might, based on new findings, place a substance on the SVHC Candidate List that until now has not been regarded as being of concern. In this case, EuPIA members will of course update their safety data sheets.

Please note that many substances are not intentionally used, but present only as trace amounts, coming from impurities, from the process or as adventitious contaminants. In addition, modern analytics are able to detect traces of such substances, even if they were not intentionally used by anybody in the supply chain. Therefore EuPIA members can confirm that the SVHC content of the inks and related products is below 0.1%, but they are not in a position to guarantee that the products supplied are SVHC-free.

Suppliers of raw materials to the printing ink industry are obliged to inform of SVHC present in amounts of 0.1% or more. EuPIA members usually do not analyse for SVHC on a regular basis.

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