



## FACT SHEET

*This fact sheet provides information about the relevance of the ink and toner industry to NICNAS requirements. These notes also give a guide to help you estimate the total value of introduction (ie. import and/or manufacture) of industrial chemicals.*

## INKS AND TONERS

### **NICNAS regulates inks and toners**

Inks (for example, writing inks, printing inks) and toners (for example, for photocopiers and printers) are made up of industrial chemicals; they are subject to certain requirements under the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act), including NICNAS registration requirements.

These requirements apply to you if you:

- import inks or toners;
- import chemicals which will be used in the making of inks or toners, for example, pigments; and/or,
- manufacture chemicals which will be used in the making of inks or toners.

### **Status of ink and toner products**

Inquiries received by NICNAS about ink and toner products show that there is a misconception that these products could be considered as articles<sup>1</sup>. Inks or toners are chemicals and do not qualify as articles. Writing materials such as pens, toner cartridges for photocopiers and printers, and stamp pads, are relevant industrial chemicals (within the scope of NICNAS registration) packaged in applicators/dispensers, which control the way the chemicals are released. They do not lose their industrial chemical status because of their delivery mechanism.

For more information on which chemicals are within the scope of NICNAS registration refer to the Fact Sheet on [Relevant Industrial Chemicals](#).

### **NICNAS registration**

NICNAS registration requirements apply to persons/companies importing and/or manufacturing relevant industrial chemicals or products containing relevant industrial chemicals.

All importers and/or manufacturers of relevant industrial chemicals for commercial purposes must register with NICNAS, regardless of the amount of relevant industrial chemicals imported or manufactured in that registration year. A registration year runs from 1 September to 31 August in the following year.

There are three levels of registration. Your registration level and hence registration cost is based on the total value of relevant industrial chemicals imported and/or manufactured each year. [Further details such as fees and charges can be found in the NICNAS Registration brochure](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Articles are considered outside the meaning of chemicals under section 6 of the Act.

**If you import inks or toners**, the import value of the imported products should be included in assessing the registration Tier that applies to you.

The import value is the customs value in Australian dollars, plus the duty paid and the cost of insurance and freight.

The Act does not distinguish imported chemicals by the way they are packaged or shipped. NICNAS registration provisions cover chemicals imported in bulk and those imported as finished products.

**If you manufacture any of the chemicals** used in the making of inks and toners, then these manufactured substances, as industrial chemicals, should be included in assessing your registration calculations. NICNAS registration requirements apply whether these manufactured chemicals are on-sold or used in the making of inks and toners within the same company.

You are unlikely to be affected by these requirements if you only formulate ink or toner products, and the ingredients you use in the formulation are purchased from an Australian supplier. (When you formulate, you mix and blend chemicals without changing them.)

For further information on NICNAS registration refer to [NICNAS Registration](#) available at [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au).

#### **Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS)**

AICS is the legal instrument which lists chemicals available for use in Australia without notification and assessment by NICNAS. Some chemicals may only be available for specified/conditional use. It is important that you are aware of any conditions or restrictions that may apply to chemicals you import and/or manufacture or plan to export.

An industrial chemical is considered to be a new industrial chemical if it is not listed on AICS. By law, all new industrial chemicals must be notified and assessed by NICNAS before they can be imported or manufactured in Australia. If you introduce (that is, import or manufacture) a chemical or chemical product, you need to ensure the chemical, or all the ingredients in the product, are listed on the AICS.

AICS is composed of two sections: non confidential and confidential section. To find out if a chemical is listed on the non confidential section of AICS, you can search AICS online available at [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au) or request NICNAS to carry out the search for you. A service charge applies only to requests for NICNAS to search the non confidential section.

For further information about notification and assessment requirements, please refer to the *Handbook for Notifiers* available at [www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/handbook/](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/publications/handbook/)

**If you have any queries about assessment, and NICNAS Registration requirements for ink and toner products, please contact NICNAS on 1800 638 528 or 02 8577 8800 or email to [info@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:info@nicnas.gov.au).**

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