

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

**POLYMER OF LOW CONCERN PUBLIC REPORT**

**Polymer in Eliminator Part A and Part B**

This Assessment has been compiled in accordance with the provisions of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the Act) and Regulations. The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) is administered by the Australian Government Department of Health, and conducts the risk assessment for public health and occupational health and safety. The assessment of environmental risk is conducted by the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy.

This Public Report is 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:

Street Address: Level 7, 260 Elizabeth Street, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010, AUSTRALIA.  
 Postal Address: GPO Box 58, SYDNEY NSW 2001, AUSTRALIA.  
 TEL: + 61 2 8577 8800  
 FAX: + 61 2 8577 8888  
 Website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

**Director  
NICNAS**

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## SUMMARY

The following details will be published in the NICNAS *Chemical Gazette*:

ASSESSMENT REFERENCE	APPLICANT(S)	CHEMICAL OR TRADE NAME	HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE	INTRODUCTION VOLUME	USE
PLC/1520	GCP Australia Pty Ltd	Polymer in Eliminator Part A and Part B	No	≤ 30 tonnes per annum	A component of coatings

## CONCLUSIONS AND REGULATORY OBLIGATIONS

### **Human Health Risk Assessment**

Based on the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the health of workers and the public.

### **Environmental Risk Assessment**

Based on the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.

### **Health and Safety Recommendations**

- 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 SDS should be easily accessible to employees.
- Spray applications should be carried out in accordance with the Safe Work Australia Code of Practice for *Spray Painting and Powder Coating* (Safe Work Australia, 2015) or relevant State or Territory Code of Practice.
- If products and mixtures containing the notified polymer are classified as hazardous to health in accordance with the *Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)*, as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia, workplace practices and control procedures consistent with provisions of State and Territory hazardous substances legislation should be in operation.

### **Disposal**

- Where reuse or recycling are not appropriate, dispose of the notified polymer in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with relevant Commonwealth, state, territory and local government legislation.

### **Emergency Procedures**

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

### **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 a component of coatings, or is likely to change significantly;
  - the amount of notified polymer being introduced has increased, or is likely to increase, significantly;
  - the notified polymer has begun to be manufactured in Australia;
  - additional information has become available to the person as to an adverse effect of the notified polymer 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.

#### **Safety Data Sheet**

The SDS of the products containing the notified polymer was provided by the applicant. The accuracy of the information on the SDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

## ASSESSMENT DETAILS

### 1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

#### Applicants

GCP Australia Pty Ltd (ABN: 41 080 660 117)  
14 Colebard Street West  
ARCHERFIELD QLD 4108

#### Exempt Information (Section 75 of the Act)

Data items and details claimed exempt from publication: chemical name, other names, CAS number, molecular and structural formulae, molecular weight, polymer constituents, residual monomers/impurities, use details and manufacture/import volume.

### 2. IDENTITY OF POLYMER

#### Marketing Name(s)

OP2 2126

#### Molecular Weight

Number Average Molecular Weight (Mn) is > 10,000 g/mol

### 3. PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION

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

The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria.

### 4. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance at 20 °C and 101.3 kPa	Viscous colourless liquid*
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temperature	Liquid at room temperature*
Relative Density	1.0-1.3 at 20 °C
Water Solubility	Not Determined. Slightly soluble in water, based on the notified polymer containing both hydrophobic and hydrophilic functionalities.
Reactivity	Stable under normal environmental conditions
Degradation Products	None under normal conditions of use

\* Product containing the notified polymer.

### 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 - 15	5-15	10-20	10-20	20-30

**Use**

The notified polymer will be imported as a component of a two-part coating system at a concentration of up to 55%. There will be no reformulation or repackaging of the imported products containing the notified polymer in Australia. The imported products containing the notified polymer will be mixed in situ and applied via spray. The notified polymer will not be made available to the general public.

**6. HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT**

No toxicological data were submitted. The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and is therefore assumed to be of low hazard. The risk of the notified polymer to occupational and public health is not considered to be unreasonable given the assumed low hazard and the assessed use pattern.

Although the products containing the notifier polymer will be applied by spray and the NAMW for the polymer is > 10,000 g/mol, the potential for lung overloading would be decreased, as the notified polymer is stated to be slightly soluble in water.

Although not considered in this risk assessment, NICNAS notes that the notified polymer may contain residual monomers that are classified as hazardous according to the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), as adopted for industrial chemicals in Australia.

**7. ENVIRONMENTAL RISK ASSESSMENT**

No ecotoxicological data were submitted. Polymers without significant ionic functionality are generally of low concern to the environment (Boethling & Nabholz, 1997).

The notified polymer will not be manufactured in Australia and will be imported as a component of both Parts A and B of a two-part waterproofing membrane system at a concentration of up to 55% in 205 L lined steel drums. Release may result from residues in empty containers which is estimated to account for up to 2% of the import volume. The residues will be disposal of to landfill along with the container.

Any spills will be collected using an adsorbent material, collected and disposed of to landfill. The notifier indicates that the application of the spray will occur outdoors on still days which will help reduce the possibility of spray drift. As the substrate area is large, the off-target overspray will be minimal since almost all the spray droplets will land on the surface being treated. Spray equipment will be rinsed out using a small amount of a suitable solvent. The waste will be collected and disposed of via a licensed contractor and after solvent recovery likely to be landfilled.

Following the application, the notified polymer is expected to share the fate of the structures to which it has been applied and ultimately will be decommissioned and any waste from the decommissioning is expected to be disposed of to landfill or enter metal recycling. In landfill, the notified polymer will be present as cured solids and will be neither bioavailable nor mobile. During metal recycling the polymer is expected to be completely combusted. Thus, release of the notified polymer from the assessed use pattern is not expected to lead to eco-toxicologically significant concentrations in the aquatic environment. The notified polymer is not expected to bio-accumulate due to its high molecular weight and slight solubility in water. The notified polymer in landfill is expected to eventually degrade via biotic and abiotic processes to form water and oxides of carbon and nitrogen.

Therefore, based on its assumed low hazard, the notified polymer is not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to the environment.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Boethling, RS & Nabholz VJ (1997) Chapter 10 Environmental Assessment of Polymers under the U.S. Toxic Substances Control Act. In: Hamilton, JD Sutcliffe R ed. Ecological Assessment of Polymers Strategies for Product Stewardship and Regulatory Programs, 1st ed. New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold, pp 187-234.

Safe Work Australia (2015) Code of Practice: Spray Painting and Powder Coating, Safe Work Australia, <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/model-code-practice-spray-painting-and-powder-coating>.