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

FULL PUBLIC REPORT

NT-31

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 and Heritage.

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**Director
Chemicals Notification and Assessment**

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FULL PUBLIC REPORT

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1. APPLICANT AND NOTIFICATION DETAILS

APPLICANT(S)

Canon Australia Pty. Ltd. (ABN: 66005002951)
 1 Thomas Holt Drive
 NORTH RYDE NSW 2113

NOTIFICATION CATEGORY

Synthetic Polymer of Low Concern

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, Monomer Residuals.

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)

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3. COMPOSITION

PLC CRITERIA JUSTIFICATION

<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Criterion met (yes/no/not applicable)</i>
Molecular Weight Requirements	Yes
Functional Group Equivalent Weight (FGEW) Requirements	Yes
Low Charge Density	Yes
Approved Elements Only	Yes
No Substantial Degradability	Yes
Not Water Absorbing	Yes
Low Concentrations of Residual Monomers	Yes
Not a Hazard Substance or Dangerous Good	Yes

The notified polymer meets the PLC criteria.

4. 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>
<i>Tonnes</i>	1-10	10-100	10-100	10-100	10-100

USE

The notified polymer will be used as an ingredient at 70-95% of toner for electrophotocopying machines or electrophotographic printers.

5. PROCESS AND RELEASE INFORMATION

5.1. Operation Description

The toner containing 70-95% notified polymer will be imported, distributed and supplied to consumers contained in a sealed toner bottle/cartridge packaged in cardboard cartons.

The toner is mainly used in offices for copying and printing. To refill the toner, the toner bottle is firmly fitted into the copying machine and the shutter opened. To change the cartridge, the seal tape is removed and the cartridge is placed into the copying machine or printer. The toner bottle and cartridge are designed not to release the toner until the shutter is opened or seal tape is removed. Used cartridges may be disposed of to landfill, or collected and exported for recycling.

During the copying or printing operation, the toner will be transferred onto the paper and firmly fixed by heat.

6. EXPOSURE INFORMATION

6.1. Summary of Environmental Exposure

The toner bottle/cartridge is installed inside of the machine or printer and designed to prevent access or leakage to toner. Therefore, no environmental release is expected in the case that the toner bottle/cartridge is replaced.

The paper printed with the toner is deinked during the paper recycling process where waste paper is repulped using a variety of alkaline, dispersing and wetting agents, water emulsifiable organic solvents and bleaches. These agents enhance fibre separation, toner detachment from the fibres, pulp brightness and the whiteness of paper. These aqueous wastes are expected to go to sewer. Due to its very low solubility very little of the notified polymer is expected to partition to the supernatant water which is released to the sewer. Sludge generated during the washing process is dried and incinerated or sent to landfill for disposal.

The size of the bottle/cartridge and the residual amount remaining in the bottle/cartridge varies on the types of copying machines or printers. A 0.2-4 L cartridge/bottle would have <12.5% residual toner left in on disposal. Therefore, the amount of notified chemical remaining corresponds to <12.5 tonne depending on maximum imports. Spent bottles/cartridges collected by the recovery system are recycled or reused along with all residual toner in the recycling process. Spent bottles/cartridges that are not recycled are likely to be sent to landfill.

Considering the low water solubility, the polymer is unlikely to hydrolyse in the environmental pH range of 4-9 (despite the presence of hydrolysable groups) and should associate with the organic or soil/sediment phases. There are no dissociable groups.

6.2. Summary of Occupational Exposure

Office workers and printer maintenance workers may be intermittently exposed to the notified polymer when replacing the spent cartridge or bottle, and during maintenance and cleaning of printers or photocopiers. Maintenance workers may potentially come in contact with the notified polymer more

often than office workers. Exposure would be principally by skin contamination, however, inhalation exposure could also occur, particularly if spillage occurs. However, exposure is expected to be controlled through the design of the toner cartridge or bottles and the printing and photocopier machines. Printer and photocopier maintenance personnel often wear cotton disposable gloves. Toner cartridges and bottles are sealed and worker exposure to the toner is minimised by the use of the replacement procedures recommended by the manufacturer.

Waterside, warehouse and transport workers are unlikely to be exposed to the notified polymer unless the packaging is breached.

Contact with paper printed with toners containing the notified polymer is unlikely to result in dermal exposure, as it will be bound in the structure of the paper.

6.3. Summary of Public Exposure

Members of the public may be exposed to the notified chemical through handling of the printed paper. Assuming 1 g of toner produces 3000 A4 pages of text, each page contains 0.3 mg of toner. Once printed onto paper the notified polymer is bound and unavailable for release. Exposure is possible from residues in the printer although the cartridges and bottles are designed to minimise these residues.

7. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Appearance at 20°C and 101.3 kPa	White powder.
Melting Point/Glass Transition Temp	Softening Point: 85°C
Density	900 kg/m ³ at 21°C.
Water Solubility	Water extractivity: 0.3-0.5 mgC/L
Particle Size	% < 75 µm: 5.5 % < 10 µm: 0
Flammability	Not highly flammable.
Explosive Properties	Not explosive in thermal, shock and friction tests. Fine powder can form explosive dust-air mixtures.
Self Ignition Temperature	>400°C
Oxidising Properties	Non-oxidising.
Stability Test	Polymer stable in buffer solutions under the test conditions of the range from pH 1.2 to pH 9.
Reactivity	Polymer is not designed to degrade by oxidation, hydrolysis, attack by solvents, heat light, or microbial action. Polymer considered to be stable under the conditions in which it is used.
Degradation Products	Oxides of carbon.

8. HUMAN HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Toxicology

Study reports were submitted for the following toxicological end-points:

<i>Endpoint</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Classified?</i>	<i>Effects Observed?</i>
Rat, acute oral	low toxicity, LD ₅₀ >2500 mg/kg bw	no	no
Rabbit, skin irritation	slightly irritating	no	yes
Rabbit, eye irritation	slightly irritating	no	yes
Guinea pig, skin sensitisation – Bühler test.	no evidence of sensitisation.	no	no
Genotoxicity - bacterial reverse mutation	non mutagenic	no	no

All results were indicative of low hazard.

8.1.1 Discussion of Observed Effects

Rabbit, skin irritation

Very slight erythema was noted at 2 out of 3 treated skin sites one hour after patch removal. The other treated site appeared normal. All treated sites appeared normal at the 24-hour observation.

Rabbit, eye irritation

Minimal conjunctival irritation was noted in 2 out of 3 treated eyes one hour after application of the test material. The other treated eye appeared normal. All treated eyes appeared normal at the 24-hour observation.

8.2. Human Health Hazard Assessment

Acute toxicity.

The notified polymer was of low oral toxicity in an acute rat study.

Irritation and Sensitisation.

The notified polymer was found to be very slightly irritating to skin and eyes in rabbits. The notified polymer was negative in a skin sensitisation test in guinea pigs.

The powder may cause mechanical irritation to the eyes, and to the respiratory tract if inhaled.

Mutagenicity

The notified polymer was negative in an Ames test.

In addition, the notified polymer meets the PLC criteria and can therefore be considered to be of low hazard.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

9.1. Ecotoxicology

No toxicological data were submitted.

9.2. Environmental Hazard Assessment

No test results were included for biodegradability or ecotoxicity studies of the notified polymer. Nonionic polymers which have MW > 1000 are generally of low concern.

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

10.1. Environment

The notified polymer will enter environmental compartments indirectly by disposal of waste paper (for recycling, to landfill or for incineration) and by direct release from discarded bottles/cartridges at landfill sites. The substance is not expected to bioaccumulate due to its high molecular weight. In landfill abiotic or slow biotic processes are expected to be largely responsible for the degradation of the notified chemical. Considering the low water solubility, the polymer is likely to be immobilised through adsorption onto soil particles and sediments. Based on the above and the widespread and diffuse use of the notified chemical, release to the environment is expected to be low and is unlikely to pose an environmental risk.

10.2. Occupational health and safety

The OHS risk presented by the notified polymer is expected to be low due to its expected low toxicity and low potential for exposure. Nevertheless, the notified polymer is a slight skin and eye irritant and due to its particulate nature may cause irritation of the respiratory tract if inhaled. Therefore, skin eye and respiratory exposure should be avoided. Individuals with the potential for prolonged exposure i.e. service personnel should wear cotton or disposable gloves. Photocopiers and printers should be located in well-ventilated areas. The NOHSC exposure standard for atmospheric dust is 10 mg/m³ (TWA).

10.3. Public health

The risk to public health presented by the notified polymer is expected to be low due to its expected low toxicity and low potential for exposure. Nevertheless, the notified polymer is a slight skin and eye irritant and due to its particulate nature may cause irritation of the respiratory tract if inhaled. Therefore, skin eye and respiratory exposure should be avoided. Photocopiers and printers should be located in well-ventilated areas

11. CONCLUSIONS – ASSESSMENT LEVEL OF CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND HUMANS

11.1. Environmental Risk Assessment

The polymer is not considered to pose a risk to the environment based on its reported use pattern.

11.2. Human Health Risk Assessment

11.2.1. Occupational health and safety

There is Low Concern to occupational health and safety under the conditions of the occupational settings described.

11.2.2. Public health

There is Low Concern to public health when used in the proposed manner.

12. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

12.1. Material Safety Data Sheet

The notifier has provided MSDS as part of the notification statement. The accuracy of the information on the MSDS remains the responsibility of the applicant.

13. 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.
- Service personnel should wear cotton or disposable gloves and ensure adequate ventilation is present when removing spent printer cartridges containing the notified polymer and during routine maintenance and repairs.
- A copy of the MSDS should be easily accessible to employees.

Disposal

- The notified polymer should be disposed of to landfill or by incineration.
- DO NOT put toner or toner container or cartridge into fire; heated toner may cause severe burns. DO NOT shred a toner container holding remaining toner or toner cartridge, unless dust-explosion preventing measures are taken. Finely dispersed particles form explosive mixtures in air. Disposal should be subject to federal, state and local laws.

Emergency procedures

- No toner spillage occurs in normal operations of handling. If it should occur, avoid inhalation of the dust. Sweep material onto paper and carefully transfer to a sealable waste container. Clean remainder with wet paper, wet cloth or a vacuum cleaner. If a vacuum cleaner is used, it must rate as a dust explosion-proof type. Fine powder can form explosive dust-air mixtures.

13.1. Secondary Notification

The Director of Chemicals Notification and Assessment must be notified in writing within 28 days by the notifier, other importer or manufacturer:

- (1) Under subsection 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 subsection 64(2) of the Act:
- if any of the circumstances listed in the subsection arise.

The Director will then decide whether secondary notification is required.

No additional secondary notification conditions are stipulated.