

REACH Compliance Update

Regulatory update on DMAc and technology upgrades implemented by DuPont

DuPont uses DMAc (dimethylacetamide) as a processing aid in the manufacture of meta-aramid fiber and paper products sold under the Nomex® brand. Nomex® paper and filament are used in applications that conserve society's use of fossil fuel through the creation of wind power, for engines in the "green" automobile industry, and in providing lightweight aircraft that use less fuel per passenger mile. Nomex® fibre is a critical component in protective garments supplied to police officers, fire-fighters, emergency response teams, industrial workers and military personnel as they navigate dangerous environments for the safety and protection of others.

In December 2011, DMAc was placed on the REACH Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) Candidate List of the European Union (EU). As part of the REACH process, DMAc is recommended for inclusion into Annex XIV, also known as the "Authorization List." Over the past 2 years, DuPont and other users and manufacturers of DMAc have proposed that regulatory stakeholders of the REACH process revisit the recommendations with a view to adopting restriction instead of authorization. This approach would align the selected Risk Minimisation Option (RMO) of the substance DMAc with the progress of other aprotic solvents en route in the same regulatory process. The final decision on inclusion into Annex XIV, or to choose another RMO, is expected by the end of 2014.

DuPont continues to strongly believe that previous and current levels of residual DMAc in Nomex® products did not and do not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Estimates of potential exposure by workers, downstream users, and customers of Nomex® products are well below a level of concern -- approximately 35 times lower than the acceptable health levels used for REACH assessments. DMAc is an industrial compound that is used in many industries, and has been safely produced and used by DuPont for decades. The toxicity, hazards and risks associated with DMAc have been studied and are well understood.

The European Union's REACH legislation requires downstream communication of the presence of DMAc where levels exceed 0.1 wt% based on the sold article. DuPont has committed to a program of technology upgrades at its plants to reduce further the amount of residual DMAc present in the fiber and paper it manufactures.

Upgrades commenced in 2012 at the DuPont European site in Asturias, Spain. Today, apparel fabrics made of fibers produced at this site and fibers for industrial applications in Europe contain less than 0.1% wt DMAc. DuPont now extends the DMAc reduction technology in steps to the US site in Richmond, Virginia, which will enable us to transition Nomex® brand paper produced in the USA and in Japan below the DMAc notification threshold of 0.1 wt% as of 2015.

DuPont anticipates that upgrades to manufacturing sites serving our electrical papers customers will be completed by Q1 2016, similarly removing their need for the reporting of the presence of DMAc. Electrical papers is a complex and very important market for DuPont and the additional time required to reduce DMAc levels there reflects DuPont's top priority of ensuring our customer expectations related to consistent quality and seamless supply are met.

For more information about DuPont and REACH send us an email to reach@dupont.com.

DuPont International Operations Sàrl
Chemin du Pavillon 2
CH-1218 Le Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland



The miracles of science™

The DuPont Oval Logo, DuPont™, The miracles of science™ and all products denoted with ® or ™ are registered trademarks or trademarks of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company or its affiliates.

This information is based on our current level of knowledge and expresses only our intention. It does not constitute a binding obligation. Whilst the information is provided in good faith, no representations or warranties are made with regards to its completeness or accuracy and no liability will be accepted for damages of any nature whatsoever resulting from the use of or reliance on the information.