

Attachment 5:

Overview of NICNAS New Chemical Notification Categories

Permit Categories

Permit notification categories are suitable for chemicals which meet certain criteria. These notification categories result in the issue of a permit allowing the introduction of fixed quantities of the chemical for the duration of the permit. This permit has enforceable conditions imposed by NICNAS which may be related to use, disposal and handling. They also result in the publication of a notice of the permit in the *Chemical Gazette*. The chemical is not added to the AICS. The assessment timeframes for permit categories are shorter and the fees lower than certificate notification categories (see below). An application to renew an existing permit can be made in certain circumstances.

Commercial Evaluation Chemical (CEC) permit notifications are for limited volume chemicals to be introduced solely for the purpose of market evaluation where the maximum quantity to be introduced is four tonnes in a maximum period of two years.

Low Volume Chemical (LVC) permit notifications are for small volume chemicals to be introduced at a rate of up to 100 kg per year or 1000 kg per year (where the chemical meets low-hazardous criteria) for a maximum of three years.

Controlled Use Permit (CUP) notifications are for the introduction of low risk new chemicals used in highly controlled circumstances for a maximum of three years. There is no volume restriction provided certain hazard and exposure criteria are met.

Export Only Permit (EOP) notifications are for controlled introduction of a new chemical for export purposes or for its use in controlled formulation of products in Australia for export of the entire quantity for a maximum of three years.

Early Introduction Permit (EIP) applications may be made under certain circumstances, in conjunction with a certificate notification. An EIP allows introduction of a chemical into Australia before its certificate assessment is complete. Chemicals/polymers which may be eligible for an EIP are:

- polymers of low concern (PLC);
- non-hazardous chemicals/polymers;
- chemicals/polymers meeting low-hazardous criteria; or
- low risk highly controlled chemicals/polymers.

Certificate Categories

The certificate notification categories are for chemicals which do not meet the permit criteria or where the introducer prefers a certificate notification to a permit notification. Certificate categories result in an assessment report, the issue of an assessment certificate, publication of a summary report in the *Chemical Gazette* and a full public report on the NICNAS website and the eventual addition of the assessed chemical to the AICS. There are different fees and data requirements for each category.

Polymers of Low Concern (PLC) notifications are for polymers for which meet certain criteria.

Limited Notifications are for chemicals that fit into the following categories:

- a. small volume chemicals, biopolymers and low molecular weight synthetic polymers (NAMW < 1000), i.e. those which are to be imported or manufactured at a rate of up to one tonne per 12 month period; or
- b. site-limited chemicals, biopolymers and low molecular weight synthetic polymers (NAMW < 1000), i.e. those restricted to their manufacturing site and manufactured at a rate of not more than 10 tonnes per 12 month period; or
- c. synthetic polymers with NAMW greater than 1000 and which do not meet the PLC criteria (no volume restriction).

Standard Notifications are for chemicals, biopolymers and low molecular weight synthetic polymers imported or manufactured at greater than one tonne per year and which do not fulfil the requirements of any other category.

Self-Assessment

It is possible to submit a self assessment application for the following categories of chemicals:

1. Polymer of Low Concern (SAPLC)
2. Non-hazardous chemicals and non-hazardous polymers other than PLC (SANHC and SANHP).

Self-Assessments have a shorter assessment timeframe and lower assessment fees than other certificate categories.

Secondary Notifications

Under Section 64 of the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act (1989)* a chemical that has been formally assessed by NICNAS, either as a new or existing chemical, may necessitate a reassessment due to changed circumstances, a secondary notification assessment.

Standard circumstances of which the Director must be advised are stated in section 64(2) of the Act, and include if the use or volume significantly change, or if any additional information becomes available as to the adverse effects of the chemical. Specific circumstances can be included in the assessment report, and may include changes in the form in which the chemical is introduced, and changes in the concentration of the imported products. These obligations apply *even* after the notified chemical is listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS).

NICNAS will appraise the information provided, and determine whether the change in circumstances impacts significantly on the findings of the original report. If this is the case, NICNAS will call for secondary notification of the notified chemical through the Chemical Gazette.