

## TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination for Premanufacture Notice (PMN) P-18-0312

**Number: P-18-0312**

**TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination:** The chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk (5(a)(3)(C))

**Chemical Name:**

Generic: Formaldehyde, polymer with 2-phenoxyalkanol and .alpha.-phenyl-.omega. hydroxypoly(oxy-1,2-alkylnediyl), dihydrogen phosphate 2-phenoxyalkyl hydrogen phosphate, alkaline salt

**Conditions of Use (intended, known, or reasonably foreseen)<sup>1</sup>:**

Intended conditions of use (generic): Import and process for use as a dispersing agent, consistent with the manufacturing, processing, use, distribution, and disposal information described in the PMN.

Known conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are known conditions of use and found none.

Reasonably foreseen conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are reasonably foreseen conditions of use and found none.

**Summary:** The chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or other nonrisk factors, including an unreasonable risk to a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation identified as relevant by the Administrator under the conditions of use, based on the risk assessment presented below. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substance could be very persistent, the new chemical substance has low potential for bioaccumulation, such that repeated exposures are not expected to be cumulative. Based on EPA's TSCA New Chemicals Program Chemical Category for Polyanionic Polymers and Monomers<sup>2</sup>, hazard data for a component of the new chemical

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<sup>1</sup> Under TSCA § 3(4), the term "conditions of use" means "the circumstances, as determined by the Administrator, under which a chemical substance is intended, known, or reasonably foreseen to be manufactured, processed, distributed in commerce, used, or disposed of." In general, EPA considers the intended conditions of use of a new chemical substance to be those identified in the section 5(a) notification. Known conditions of use include activities within the United States that result from manufacture that is exempt from PMN submission requirements. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use are future circumstances, distinct from known or intended conditions of use, under which the Administrator expects the chemical substance to be manufactured, processed, distributed, used, or disposed of. The identification of "reasonably foreseen" conditions of use will necessarily be a case-by-case determination and will be highly fact-specific. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use will not be based on hypotheticals or conjecture. EPA's identification of conditions of use includes the expectation of compliance with federal and state laws, such as worker protection standards or disposal restrictions, unless case-specific facts indicate otherwise. Accordingly, EPA will apply its professional judgment, experience, and discretion when considering such factors as evidence of current use of the new chemical substance outside the United States, evidence that the PMN substance is sufficiently likely to be used for the same purposes as existing chemical substances that are structurally analogous to the new chemical substance, and conditions of use identified in an initial PMN submission that the submitter omits in a revised PMN. The sources EPA uses to identify reasonably foreseen conditions of use include searches of internal confidential EPA PMN databases (containing use information on analogue chemicals), other U.S. government public sources, the National Library of Medicine's Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), the Chemical Abstract Service STN Platform, REACH Dossiers, technical encyclopedias (e.g., Kirk-Othmer and Ullmann), and Internet searches.

<sup>2</sup> TSCA New Chemicals Program (NCP) Chemical Categories. <https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/chemical-categories-used-review-new>.

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substance and for analogous chemicals, other structural information, and its estimated physical/chemical properties, EPA estimates that the chemical substance has moderate environmental hazard and potential for the following human health hazards: lung effects, systemic effects, and eye irritation. EPA concludes that the new chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use.

**Fate:** Environmental fate is the determination of which environmental compartment(s) a chemical moves to, the expected residence time in the environmental compartment(s) and removal and degradation processes. Environmental fate is an important factor in determining exposure and thus in determining whether a chemical may present an unreasonable risk. EPA estimated physical/chemical and fate properties of this new chemical substance using data for analogous polymers. The chemical substance is estimated to be removed during wastewater treatment with an efficiency of 90% via sorption. Removal by biodegradation is estimated to be negligible to moderate. Sorption to sludge is estimated to be strong, and sorption to soil and sediment is estimated to be very strong, resulting in negligible migration to groundwater. Volatilization to air is estimated to be negligible because of the high molecular volume. Overall, these estimates are indicative of low potential for this chemical substance to volatilize into the air and a low potential to migrate into groundwater.

**Persistence<sup>3</sup>:** Persistence is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because chemicals that are not degraded in the environment at rates that prevent substantial buildup in the environment, and thus increase potential for exposure, may present a risk if the substance presents a hazard to human health or the environment. Based on data for analogous polymers, EPA estimates that the aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation half-lives of the new chemical substance are greater than six months. These estimates indicate that the new chemical substance may be very persistent in aerobic environments (e.g., surface water) and anaerobic environments (e.g., sediment).

**Bioaccumulation<sup>4</sup>:** Bioaccumulation is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because substances that bioaccumulate in aquatic and/or terrestrial species pose the potential for elevated exposures to humans and other organisms via food chains. The new chemical substance has low bioaccumulation potential based its large predicted molecular volume, which limits bioavailability. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substance could be very persistent, the substance has low potential for bioaccumulation, such

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<sup>3</sup> Persistence: A chemical substance is considered to have limited persistence if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediment of less than 2 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 2 months but less than or equal to 6 months or if there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 6 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4, 1999)

<sup>4</sup> Bioaccumulation: A chemical substance is considered to have a low potential for bioaccumulation if there are bioconcentration factors (BCF) or bioaccumulation factors (BAF) of less than 1,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 1,000 or greater and less than or equal to 5,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 5,000 or greater or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4 1999)

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that repeated exposures are not expected to cause food chain effects via accumulation in exposed organisms.

**Human Health Hazard<sup>5</sup>:** Human health hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA estimated the human health hazard of this chemical substance based on hazard data for a component of the new chemical substance, other structural information and its estimated physical/chemical properties. Absorption of the new chemical substance is estimated to be nil through the skin, lung and gastrointestinal tract, based on physical/chemical properties. EPA identified lung effects as a hazard based on surfactant properties and eye irritation based on test data on the low molecular weight components identified in the Sustainable Futures Submission. Systemic (kidney/blood) effects were identified as hazards for the low molecular weight components based on test data on the low molecular weight components and analogous chemical substances. Using test data on low molecular weight components, EPA identified a NOAEL of 80 mg/kg-bw/day for kidney effects from a 13-week oral repeated-dose toxicity study (OECD 408) and a NOAEL of 500 mg/kg-bw/day based on no effects observed at the highest dose tested, from a 90-day dermal repeated-dose toxicity study (OECD 411). EPA also identified a LOAEC of 0.08 mg/m<sup>3</sup> from a 21-day inhalation study of an analogous chemical substance. These NOAEL and LOAEC values were used to derive exposure route- and population-specific points of departure for quantitative risk assessment, described below.

**Environmental Hazard<sup>6</sup>:** Environmental hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent

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<sup>5</sup> A chemical substance is considered to have low human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) equal to or greater than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have moderate human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a NOAEL less than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have high human health hazard if there is evidence of adverse effects in humans or conclusive evidence of severe effects in animal studies with a NOAEL of less than or equal to 10 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances. EPA may also use Benchmark Dose Levels (BMDL) derived from benchmark dose (BMD) modeling as points of departure for toxic effects. See <https://www.epa.gov/bmds/what-benchmark-dose-software-bmds>. Using this approach, a BMDL is associated with a benchmark response, for example a 5 or 10 % incidence of effect. The aforementioned characterizations of hazard (low, medium, high) would also apply to BMDLs. In the absence of animal data on a chemical or analogous chemical substance, EPA may use other data or information such as from in vitro assays, chemical categories (e.g., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2014 Guidance on Grouping of Chemicals, Second Edition. ENV/JM/MONO(2014)4. Series on Testing & Assessment No. 194. Environment Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France. ([http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2014\)4&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2014)4&doclanguage=en))), structure-activity relationships, and/or structural alerts to support characterizing human health hazards.

<sup>6</sup> A chemical substance is considered to have low ecotoxicity hazard if the Fish, Daphnid and Algae LC50 values are greater than 100 mg/L, or if the Fish and Daphnid chronic values (ChVs) are greater than 10.0 mg/L, or there are not effects at saturation (occurs when water solubility of a chemical substance is lower than an effect concentration), or the log Kow value exceeds QSAR cut-offs. A chemical substance is considered to have moderate ecotoxicity hazard if the lowest of the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s is greater than 1 mg/L and less than 100 mg/L, or where the Fish or Daphnid ChVs are greater than 0.1 mg/L and less than 10.0 mg/L. A chemical substance is considered to have high ecotoxicity hazard, or if either the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s are less than 1 mg/L, or any Fish or Daphnid

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upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA determined the environmental hazard for this new chemical substance based on toxicity data submitted for the substance and hazard data on an analogous chemical (standard toxicity profile for phosphate with an adjustment for percent molecular weight (5.1%)). Substance falls within the TSCA New Chemicals Category Polyanionic Polymers and Monomers. Acute toxicity values measured for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and algae are greater than 100 mg/L, greater than 49.2 mg/L, and 8.8 mg/L, respectively. Chronic toxicity values measured for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and algae are greater than 10 mg/L, greater than 10 mg/L, and 2.2 mg/L, respectively. These toxicity values indicate that the new chemical substance is expected to have moderate environmental hazard. Application of assessment factors of 4 and 10 to acute and chronic toxicity values, respectively, results in acute and chronic concentrations of concern (COCs) of 2.2 mg/L (2,200 ppb) and 0.220 mg/L (220 ppb), respectively.

**Exposure:** The exposure to a new chemical substance is potentially relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risks because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance.

EPA estimates occupational exposure and environmental release of the new chemical substance under the intended conditions of use described in the PMN using ChemSTEER (Chemical Screening Tool for Exposures and Environmental Releases <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/chemsteer-chemical-screening-tool-exposures-and-environmental-releases>). EPA uses EFAST (the Exposure and Fate Assessment Screening Tool; <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/e-fast-exposure-and-fate-assessment-screening-tool-version-2014>) to estimate general population, consumer, and environmental exposures.

EPA considers workers to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation (PESS) on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population. EPA also considers PESS in conducting general population drinking water exposures by evaluating risks associated with water intake rates for multiple age groups, ranging from infants to adults. EPA considers consumers of specific products to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population who do not use specific products.

For this new chemical assessment, EPA assessed exposure to workers via the dermal route, and inhalation exposure to workers is not expected. Releases to water and air were estimated. Exposure to the general population was assessed via drinking water. Exposure to the general population via inhalation was not assessed because releases to air are expected to be negligible (below modeling thresholds). Exposures to consumers were not assessed because consumer uses were not identified as conditions of use.

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ChVs is less than 0.1 mg/L (Sustainable Futures <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-futures/sustainable-futures-p2-framework-manual>).

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**Risk Characterization:** EPA applies a margin of exposure approach to calculate potential human health risks of new chemicals. A benchmark (acceptable) margin of exposure is derived by applying uncertainty factors for the following types of extrapolations: intra-species extrapolation ( $UF_H = 10$  to account for variation in sensitivity among the human population), inter-species extrapolation ( $UF_A = 10$  to account for extrapolating from experimental animals to humans) and LOAEL-to-NOAEL extrapolation ( $UF_L = 10$  to account for using a LOAEL when a NOAEL is not available). Hence, in the New Chemicals Program, a benchmark MOE is typically 100 and 1000 when NOAELs and LOAELs, respectively, are used to identify hazard. When allometric scaling or pharmacokinetic modeling is used to derive an effect level, the  $UF_H$  may be reduced to 3, for a benchmark MOE of 30. The benchmark MOE is used to compare to the MOE calculated by comparing the toxicity NOAEL or LOAEL to the estimated exposure concentrations. When the calculated MOE is equal to or exceeds the benchmark MOE, the new chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk. EPA assesses risks to workers considering engineering controls described in the PMN but in the absence of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves and respirators. If risks are preliminarily identified, EPA then considers whether the risks would be mitigated by the use of PPE (e.g., impervious gloves, respirator).

Risks to human health for the new chemical substance were evaluated using the route-specific effect levels (i.e., oral and dermal NOAELs) described above. Risks were not identified for workers for systemic effects from dermal exposure when good absorption was assumed for the low molecular weight components of the new chemical substance ( $MOE = 794$ ; benchmark  $MOE = 100$ ). Risks were not identified for workers via inhalation exposure, as inhalation exposures are not expected. Eye irritation hazards to workers were identified based on information in the Sustainable Futures submission provided by the submitter. Risks for this endpoint were not quantified due to a lack of dose-response for this hazard. However, exposures can be mitigated by the use of appropriate personal protective equipment PPE, including eye protection. EPA expects that employers will require and that workers will use appropriate PPE, consistent with the Safety Data Sheet prepared by the new chemical submitter, in a manner adequate to protect them.

Risks were not identified for the general population via drinking water exposure based on quantitative hazard data for a component of the new chemical substance ( $MOE_{Adult} = 300,751$ ;  $MOE_{Infant} = 71,607$ ; benchmark  $MOE = 100$ ). Risks to consumers were not assessed because consumer uses were not identified as conditions of use.

Risks to the environment were evaluated by comparing estimated surface water concentrations with the acute and chronic COCs. Risk from acute and chronic exposures to the environment were not identified due to releases to water that did exceed the acute or chronic COC.

Because no unreasonable risks to workers, the general population, consumers or the environment were identified, EPA has determined that the new chemical substance is not likely to present unreasonable risk to human health or the environment under the conditions of use.

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04/18/19  
Date:

/s/  
Tala R. Henry, Ph.D.  
Acting Deputy Director for Programs  
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics