



Dow Europe GmbH
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Trichloroethylene and Authorisation under REACH (Regulation (EC) 1907/2006)

Information Letter no. 5:

- *For customers using Trichloroethylene in surface cleaning (closed systems)*

ECHA recommends to include 13 priority substances including Trichloroethylene (TRI) from the "Candidate List" into ANNEX XIV of REACH (the "Authorisation List")

Dear Valued Customer,

This letter informs you about the recent recommendation of the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) to include TRI into ANNEX XIV of REACH and possible exemption of TRI for specific uses.

European manufacturers and importers of TRI requested an exemption of TRI for industrial use for surface cleaning in closed systems. Please find below ECHA's statement concerning this request:

"This request made reference to ongoing activities potentially resulting in inclusion of a binding Occupational Exposure Limit (bOEL) for trichloroethylene in Directive 2004/37/EC (Carcinogens and mutagens at work). If a bOEL for workers would be included in this Directive, the conclusion that existing EU legislation aimed at protection of workers against risks to their health (including Directives 98/24/EC and 2004/37/EC) currently does not impose binding minimum requirements for controlling risks to workers health during the use phase or throughout the life cycle of trichloroethylene may need to be revisited."

Next, the European Commission, the Member States Committee, the European Parliament and the EU Council will be involved in the decision process for inclusion in ANNEX XIV. The new ANNEX XIV (including TRI) is expected to be published in February 2013 earliest. Within this time period we expect a decision for inclusion of a bOEL into either directive 2004/37/EC or 98/24/EC. If the inclusion takes place, it would serve as justification for the request for exemption of the use of TRI as surface cleaning agent in closed systems as recommended by ECHA (see above).



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What are Dow and SAFECHEM doing for a sustainable use of TRI

Dow and SAFECHEM are committed to the sustainable use of TRI. The current aim is to obtain exemption from authorisation for the use of TRI in surface cleaning in closed systems. If this exemption will be included in ANNEX XIV, no authorisation will be required for this particular use.

Dow and SAFECHEM are aware of the importance of TRI for surface cleaning applications and are committed to the safe and sustainable use of TRI. SAFECHEM continues to provide innovative, complete solutions like the Chemical Leasing concept to actively manage the product specific risks.

For more information please visit the ECHA website:

<http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/recommendation-for-inclusion-in-the-authorisation-list/previous-recommendations/3rd-recommendation>

Thank you for your support and continuous confidence into Dow and SAFECHEM.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Angelov".

P. Angelov

Marketing Director Europe/IMEA,
Dow Europe GmbH

References to "Dow" or the "Company" mean The Dow Chemical Company and its consolidated subsidiaries unless otherwise expressly noted