



March/2015

Trichloroethylene and Authorisation under REACH (1997/2006)

Information letter no. 9:

Status of the authorisation process of Trichloroethylene (TRI) for surface cleaning

Dear Mme/Sir,

This letter informs about the authorisation process and considerations on the continued use of TRI.

1. What are the current status and the next steps of the authorisation process of TRI?

In August 2014 Dow/SAFECEM submitted their application for authorisation for the "Use of TRI for industrial parts cleaning (Surface cleaning) in closed systems". The public consultation on alternative substances or technologies to the use(s) applied for, risks, technical feasibility and costs of alternatives was closed in January 2015 and all questions which came out of this consultation from the different Committees of ECHA were answered by Dow.

The authorisation dossier is now reviewed by the two expert committees of ECHA: the RAC (Risk Assessment Committee) and the SEAC (Socio-Economic Assessment Committee). Each committee is preparing their opinion based on the risk for human health and the environment or respectively the socio economic impacts of a continuous use of TRI after the sunset date versus a prohibition. A draft opinion will be forwarded to Dow for commenting within two months. Afterwards they reconsider their opinions based on the received comments and draft their final recommendations which ECHA will then forward to the European Commission. At last the European Commission will decide if the authorisation will be granted or not.

2. When will Dow/SAFECEM find out when authorisation is granted?

The decision on whether or not the authorisation is granted could take up to two years. However, practical examples indicate that the authorities will not need this whole period. Other applications for authorisation for other substances have been granted within approx. 1 year. Dow expects a publishing of the final decision earliest at the end of 2015 or beginning of 2016 but we will closely monitor the process and keep customers informed.



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3. What do Downstream Users need to do to be covered by the authorisation of Dow?

On the basis of the authorisation granted to Dow as their supplier, Downstream Users need to:

- a. Evaluate whether or not a suitable alternative is available for their specific application. If a suitable alternative is available Downstream Users are strongly recommended to substitute TRI before the sunset date (21st of April 2016).
- b. Ensure strict application of the risk management measures and process conditions as outlined in the authorisation.
- c. Notify the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) within three months of the first supply of the substance {Art. 66(1)} after sunset date. Such notifications will be kept in a register maintained by ECHA and will be made available to the Competent Authorities of the Member States on request.

For further information please visit www.chemaware.org or contact SAFECHEM service@safechem-europe.com.

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

P. Angelov

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