

JANA

Jubail Chemical Industries Co.

Limited Liability Company

Capital SR 666,000,000

C.R. 2055004384

[A subsidiary of NAMA]



جنا
شركة الجبيل للصناعات الكيماوية
شركة ذات مسؤولية محدودة
رأس المال ٦٦٦,٠٠٠,٠٠٠ ريال سعودي
سجل تجاري رقم ٢٠٥٥٠٠٤٣٨٤
[إحدى الشركات التابعة لنماء]

Bisphenol A (BPA) identified as Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) and included in Candidate List on January 12, 2017

On January 12, 2017, ECHA has published the addition of Bisphenol-A (BPA) to the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). This expected inclusion in the Candidate List occurred according to article 57(c) related to the future BPA classification as reprotoxic 1b (as of 1st of March 2018). The justification for SVHC identification is primarily based on the intrinsic property of the substance, i.e. reprotoxicity, and not on use, exposure and risk.

While the inclusion of BPA in the Candidate List might trigger immediate communication and notification obligations¹, it does not imply any ban or restriction of any uses of the substance at this stage. However, if added to the Priority List, BPA can be proposed for inclusion in the Authorization List (Annex XIV of REACH) by the Commission, which might require users to apply for authorization for certain uses in scope.

BPA is a starting material for Epoxy resins. The majority of Epoxy resins are reaction products of BPA and Epichlorohydrin, where both components react away to form the final resin. Under Reach, this final resin is identified as a chemical substance or a polymer (typically with residual amount of BPA <<0.1%) which is fundamentally different from BPA itself. This use is consistent with classification as an intermediate use which is, by REACH definition, exempt from the authorization process.

As a consequence, no direct implications of SVHC identification and/or potential authorization are expected for BPA in the vast majority of Epoxy resin related uses.

It is however of paramount importance that all actors along the value chain carefully document the conditions of use (occupational exposure scenarios and potential emission(s) to the environment) in case free BPA containing products are consumed at their sites. In such case it is requested to report all the required data up the value chain in order to enable a comprehensive risk assessment by the authorities.

Consumer safety of BPA confirmed for food contact applications and beyond

In its recent comprehensive evaluation of consumer safety², the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that current consumer exposure to BPA poses no health risk to any age group. This is because the exposure via food, but also via a combination of different sources (food, dust, cosmetics, thermal paper) is far below the newly derived tolerable daily intake (TDI).

REACH respects existing food contact regulation

In the area of food contact applications, the use of BPA as a starting material for polymers in contact with food is in compliance with the Framework Regulation for all food contact materials ((EC) No 1935/2004) and the use as polymer starting material permitted by the Regulation on plastics used as food contact materials ((EU) No 10/2011). Therefore, neither the identification of BPA as an SVHC nor a potential subsequent authorization under REACH at a later stage would affect its approved use in plastics for food contact applications such as Epoxy products.

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