FOR INFORMATION

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EURATEX

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Update on Titanium Dioxide classification process

Summary: ECHA RAC Committee has concluded that Titanium Dioxide should be classified as carcinogenic under Category 2 (suspected of causing cancer through inhalation route). The classification is less stringent than initially proposed. Members to be provided with more information on the CLP implications to REACH and other legislations.

1. Background

The French authorities submitted a proposal for a new entry under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging Regulation (CLP) for Titanium Dioxide as category 1B (may cause cancer when inhaled). The proposal faced criticism by industries due to weak scientific evidence and lack of alternatives. Such classification would have an impact on REACH in terms of authorization, restriction and information in the supply chain. After the initial meeting of the European Chemicals Agency Risk Assessment Committee (ECHA RAC) in early March, the Committee has now concluded at the meeting last week that the substance should have a Category 2 classification (suspected of causing cancer through inhalation route).

2. Possible impact on the industry

The recent ECHA RAC meeting concluded that there is not enough scientific evidence to classify Titanium Dioxide with the highest category for carcinogenicity and, therefore, the Committee assigned a lower class of Category 2. The newly concluded classification of Category 2 might have less stringent implications on REACH. According to the legal text: i) substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) in Category 1A and 1B may be included under Annex XIV or XVII; ii) If a substance that is carcinogenic Category 2 is present in an individual concentration of ≥ 0,1 % by weight for non-gaseous mixtures, the supplier shall provide the recipient per request with a safety data sheet (SDS).

3. Next steps

The ECHA RAC Scientific Opinion will be formally adopted via a written procedure sometime in September. Then it will be sent to the European Commission for a final decision. EURATEX to seek additional information on the implication of the ECHA RAC decision with regard to REACH and other legislation.

(Original signed by)

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