

# 2012

## REACH :: Catégorie d'usage



E4. Analyses économiques et Economie internationale – Direction industries de base  
SPF Economie, P.M.E., Classes moyennes et Energie

# FUNCTION CATEGORY / USE CATEGORY

The 55 categories listed below represent various functional uses of substances. Some of them are subdivided into sub-categories where appropriate.

For clarity, exclusions are indicated in some cases. For new substances these categories should be entered in the Summary Notification Dossier under the item "desired effects". In cases where a sub-category is selected, this entry should be added to the same item. For existing substances the term "use category" is used in HEDSET and IUCLID.

NOTE: Some of the categories below are representative of substances which normally do not fall under the scope of Directive 67/548/EEC or Regulation 793/93 (e.g. category 19, fertilisers and 41 pharmaceuticals). These categories have been included so that, for example, substances having multiple uses, or those for which new/further uses are found, can be accommodated.

## 1 Absorbents and adsorbents

Materials used to absorb or adsorb gases or liquids:

- filter material/media;
- molecular sieves;
- silica gel etc..

## 2 Adhesives, binding agents

Materials which are applied to two surfaces causing them to adhere: dispersion-based adhesives, hotmelt, resins for polymer-based hardening adhesives, solvent based adhesives.

## 3 Aerosol propellants

Compressed or liquefied gases within which substances are dissolved or suspended and expelled from a container upon discharge of the internal pressure through expansion of the gas.

## 4 Anti-condensation agents

Substances used to avoid condensation on surfaces and in the atmosphere: anti-dim agents, condensation removers.

## 5 Anti-freezing agents

Substances used to prevent and remove ice formation: antifreeze liquids, de-icing agents.

## 6 Anti-set-off and anti-adhesive agents

Substances used to prevent set-off and adhesion: spraying powder and anti-set-off additives for printing; oils and waxes for laths and shuttering; casting slip etc..

## **7 Anti-static agents**

Substances used to prevent or reduce the tendency to accumulate electrostatic charges: anti-static additives; substances for surface treatment against static electricity.

## **8 Bleaching agents**

Substances used to whiten or decolourise materials.

Not: cosmetics; photographic bleaches; optical brighteners.

## **9 Cleaning/washing agents and additives**

Substances used to remove dirt or impurities from surfaces.

Sub-categories: detergents; soaps; dry cleaning solvents; optical brighteners in detergents.

## **10 Colouring agents**

Substances used to impart their colour to other materials.

Sub-categories: dyestuffs; pigments (including toners); colour forming agents; fluorescent brighteners (but see below re detergents).

Not: cosmetics; food colours; photo-chemicals; optical brighteners used exclusively in detergents; reprographic agents.

## **11 Complexing agents**

Substances used to combine with other substances (mainly metal ions) to form complexes.

### **12 Conductive agents**

Materials used to conduct electrical current.

Sub-categories: electrolytes; electrode materials.

## **13 Construction materials additives**

Substances used in building materials and constructional articles: wall construction materials; road surface materials, ceramic, metal, plastic and wooden construction materials.

## **14 Corrosion inhibitors**

Substances used to prevent corrosion: corrosion inhibiting additives; rust preventives

## **15 Cosmetics**

Substances used as components of cosmetic and toiletry formulations.

## **16 Dust binding agents**

Substances used to control finely divided solid particles of powdered or ground

materials to reduce their discharge into the air.

### **17 Electroplating agents**

Substances used as a source for a layer of metal deposited on another surface; or that aid such a deposition.

### **18 Explosives**

Substances or mixtures that are characterised by chemical stability but that may be made to undergo chemical change, rapidly producing a large quantity of energy and gas accompanied by bursting or expansion.

Sub-categories: blasting agents; detonators; incendiaries.

### **19 Fertilisers**

Substances used to supply chemical elements needed for plant nutrition.

### **20 Fillers**

Relatively inert, and normally non-fibrous, finely divided substances added to elastomers, plastics, paints, ceramics etc., usually to extend volume which may improve desired properties such as whiteness, lubricity, density or tensile strength.

### **21 Fixing agents**

Substances used to interact with a dye on fibres to improve fastness.

### **22 Flame retardants and fire preventing agents**

Substances incorporated into, or applied to the surface of, materials to slow down or prevent combustion.

### **23 Flotation agents**

Substances used to concentrate and obtain minerals from ores: flotation oil; flotation depressants.

### **24 Flux agents for casting**

Substances used to promote the fusing of minerals or prevent oxide formation.

### **25 Foaming agents**

Substances used to form a foam or cellular structure in a plastic or rubber material: physically by expansion of compressed gases or vaporisation of liquid, or chemically by decomposition evolving a gas.

Sub-categories: chemical or physical blowing agents; frothers.

## **26 Food/feedstuff additives**

Substances used in food or animal feedstuffs to produce or enhance taste, odour or colour or to improve conservation.

## **27 Fuels**

Substances used to evolve energy in a controlled combustion reaction.

Sub-categories: gasoline; kerosine; gas oil; fuel oil; petroleum gas; non-mineral oil.

## **28 Fuel additives**

Substances added to fuels.

Sub-categories: anti-fouling agents; antiknock agents; deposit modifiers; fuel oxidisers.

## **29 Heat transferring agents**

Substances used to transmit or to remove heat from a material.

Sub-categories: cooling agents; heating agents.

## **30 Hydraulic fluids and additives**

Fluids used for transmitting pressure.

## **31 Impregnation agents**

Substances used to admix with solid materials, which retain their original form: impregnating agents for leather, paper, textile and wood.

Not: flame retardants; conserving agents; biocides.

## **32 Insulating agents**

Agents used to prevent or inhibit the flow of electrical current, heat or light or the transmission of sound.

## **33 Intermediates**

Substances used for synthesis of other chemicals.

Sub-categories: monomers; pre-polymers.

## **34 Laboratory chemicals**

Substances used in laboratories for analytical purposes.

## **35 Lubricants and additives**

Substances entrained between two surfaces and thereby used to reduce friction: oils; fats; waxes; friction reducing additives.

### **36 Odour agents**

Substances used to produce, enhance or mask odour.

Not: food additives; cosmetics.

### **37 Oxidising agents**

Substances that give up oxygen easily, remove hydrogen from other substances, or accept electrons in chemical reactions, and are used for such purposes.

### **38 Pesticides**

Active ingredients and preparations containing one or more active ingredients, intended to protect plants or plant products against harmful organisms or prevent the action of such organisms, influence the life processes of plants, preserve plant products, destroy undesirable plants or destroy parts of plants.

Not: nutrients; fertilisers.

39 Pesticides, non-agricultural (Biocides)

Active substances and preparations containing one or more active substances, intended to destroy, deter, render harmless, prevent the action of or otherwise exert a controlling effect on any organism which has an unwanted presence for man, or a detrimental effect for man, his activities or the products he uses or produces; or for animals or for the environment.

Sub-categories: disinfectants, preservative products, pest control products, specialist biocides.

Not: plant protection products; veterinary products.

40 pH-regulating agents

Substances used to alter or stabilise the hydrogen ion concentration (pH): acids; alkalis; buffers.

### **41 Pharmaceuticals**

Substances used as active ingredients in medicinal preparations.

Sub-categories: veterinary medicines

### **42 Photochemicals**

Substances used to create a permanent photographic image.

Sub-categories: desensitisers; developers; fixing agents; photosensitive agents; sensitisers; anti-fogging agents; light stabilisers; intensifiers.

### **43 Process regulators**

Substances used to regulate the speed of a (chemical) process.

Sub-categories: accelerators; activators; catalysts; inhibitors; siccatives; antiscicatives; cross-linking agents; initiators; photo-initiators etc..

#### **44 Reducing agents**

Substances used to remove oxygen, hydrogenate or, in general, act as electron donors in chemical reactions.

#### **45 Reprographic agents**

Substances used to reproduce a permanent image.

Sub-categories: toner for photocopying machines; toner additives.

#### **46 Semiconductors**

Substances having resistivities that are between those of insulators and metals, and are usually changeable by light, heat or electrical or magnetic field, or generate electromotive force upon the incidence of radiant energy.

Sub-categories: semiconductors; photovoltaic agents.

#### **47 Softeners**

Substances used for softening materials to improve feel, to facilitate finishing processes or to impart flexibility or workability.

Sub-categories: coalescing agents; bates (leather technology); devulcanising agents; emollients; swelling agents; water softeners; plasticisers.

#### **48 Solvents**

Substances used to dissolve, thin, dilute and extract: extraction agents; solvents and thinners for paints, lacquers, adhesives and other materials.

#### **49 Stabilisers**

Substances used to prevent or slow down spontaneous changes in, and ageing of, materials.

Sub-categories: antioxidants; heat stabilisers; light stabilisers; scavengers; charge stabilisers.

#### **50 Surface-active agents**

Substances used to lower the surface and/or interfacial tension of liquids and promote cleaning, wetting, dispersion etc..

#### **51 Tanning agents**

Substances used for treating hides and skins.

#### **52 Viscosity adjusters**

Substances used to modify the flow characteristics of other substances, or mixtures, to which they are added.

Sub-categories: pour point depressants; thickeners; thixotropic agents; turbulence suppressors; viscosity index improvers.

### **53 Vulcanising agents**

Substances added to rubber to aid and hasten vulcanisation: vulcanising accelerators and vulcanising assistants.

### **54 Welding and soldering agents**

Materials used for welding and soldering; electrodes; flux; powdered metal; wire etc..

55/999 Others

Substances whose technical functions are not described elsewhere.

NOTE : The function category 55 is not used for new substances. For new substances function category "Others" is numbered 999.