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REACH :: Catégories d'utilisation

E4. Analyses économiques et Economie internationale – Direction industries de base

SPF Economie, P.M.E., Classes moyennes et Energie

MAIN CATEGORY

The four main categories used for existing substances are intended to describe the exposure relevance of the use(s) of a substance. Similar information is also submitted for new substances with the Summary Notification Dossier under the item "Fields of application".

NOTE: The interpretation of the four main categories as used for assessment of exposure to workers and of exposure to the environment do differ slightly. The terms as used in the HEDSET apply mainly to releases into the environment. A detailed definition of the terms as used for the workplace assessment is to be found in Section 2.2 of Chapter 2: Risk Assessment for Human Health.

1 Use in closed systems

A substance should be assigned to this category if it remains within a reactor or is transferred from vessel through closed pipework and therefore accidental spillage is the only likely cause for human exposure or environmental contamination. Intermediates are restricted to the reaction vessel and its dedicated equipment. Isolated products are stored on-site or are transported under controlled conditions.

Where substances are used in closed systems but might be released into the environment after production, or where significant discharges into the environment cannot be excluded during production, the use pattern should be assigned to the "non-dispersive use" or the "wide dispersive use" categories. The substances should be assigned to one of the following sub-categories:

1A Non-isolated intermediates

For substances restricted to the reaction vessel and its dedicated equipment.

1B Isolated intermediates

For intermediates stored on-site.

1C Isolated intermediates with controlled transport

NOTE: The categories 1A, 1B and 1C are also used to characterise different release scenarios for the estimation of emission to the environment during production, formulation and processing of a substance. Further specification is given in Section 2.3.3.3 and Appendix I of Chapter 3: Environmental Risk Assessment.

2 Use resulting in inclusion into or onto matrix

Use consisting of inclusion into or onto a matrix means all processes where substances are incorporated into products or articles from which release into the environment would not take place (environment) or is substantially curtailed (workplace).

Examples relevant for environmental exposure: Inclusion of plasticisers in plastics;

additives such as pigments or dyes in plastic or fibres; catalysts in coating materials.

Examples relevant for occupational exposure: Dispersion of solids in water; use of raw material in pellets form; use of elastomer master batches.

3 Non-dispersive use

Non dispersive use refers to processes in which substances are used in such a way that only certain groups of workers, with the knowledge of the processes, come into contact with these substances. These substances may also be discharged into the environment from point sources. Quantities discharged will be limited due to protective measures such as waste water treatment or filtration of air.

4 Wide dispersive use

Wide dispersive use refers to activities which deliver uncontrolled exposure.

Examples relevant for occupational exposure: Painting with paints; spraying of pesticides. Examples relevant for environmental/consumer exposure: Use of detergents, cosmetics, disinfectants, household paints.