



## **NMP News Brief**

February 7, 2017

### **EPA Request for Information on Conditions of Use**

On January 23, 2017, the N-Methylpyrrolidone (NMP) Producers Group, Inc. (NMP Producers Group) met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff to discuss conditions of use, which will be critical in EPA's assessment of NMP, [as one of the first ten chemicals to be evaluated under amended Toxic Substances Control Act \(TSCA\)](#). This risk assessment under amended TSCA is distinct and separate from the risk assessment conducted on paint removers containing NMP. The risk assessment under amended TSCA will cover all other conditions of NMP use.

Specifically, EPA has asked the NMP Producers Group to help facilitate the collection of information related to use and potential release/exposure scenarios that need to be included in the risk assessment. The NMP Producers Group is currently engaged with stakeholder groups to address EPA's request.

EPA has opened [an electronic docket for information submissions](#). [EPA has also announced a public meeting on February 14, 2017, to receive input and information to assist EPA in its efforts to establish the scope of risk evaluations under development for the ten chemical substances to be assessed under amended TSCA.](#)

### **Proposed Section 6 Rulemaking for NMP Used in Paint Removers**

[The proposed TSCA Section 6 risk management rulemaking for NMP used in paint remover products was published in the January 19, 2017, \*Federal Register\*.](#) The NMP Producers Group is preparing comments, which are due no later than **April 19, 2017**. The comments will highlight the unrealistic consumer exposure scenarios identified in the supplemental risk assessment, and raise concerns with the air modeling approaches used by EPA in its assessment. The comments will also provide feedback on the two risk management options outlined by EPA in the proposed rulemaking, which are as follows:

- **Supply Chain Approach** -- This option would (1) prohibit the manufacturing, processing, and distribution in commerce of NMP for paint and coating removal, except for certain uses critical to national security; (2) prohibit the commercial use of NMP in paint and coating removal, except for certain uses critical to national security; (3) require that all paint and coating removers containing NMP be distributed in containers with volumes no less than five gallons; (4) require downstream notification when distributing NMP for other uses; and (5) require limited recordkeeping.

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- **Reformulation, Labeling, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Approach** -- This option requires commercial users of NMP for paint and coating removal to establish a worker protection program for dermal and respiratory protection, including hazard communication, training, and requirements that workers wear clothing covering most of the body and a respirator with an assigned protection factor (APF) of 10, with an alternative air exposure limit of 5 ppm achieved through engineering controls or ventilation. Also under this approach, formulators of products for either commercial or consumer use would be required to:
  - Reformulate products such that paint and coating removal products containing NMP do not exceed a maximum of 35 percent NMP by weight in product formulations (except for product formulations destined to be used by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) or its contractors performing work only for DOD projects);
  - Test gloves for the product formulations being processed and distributed in commerce to identify specialized gloves that provide protection for users;
  - Label products with information for consumers about reducing risks when using the products, including identifying which specialized gloves provide protection against their specific formulation; and
  - Provide information for commercial users about reducing risks when using the product, via product labels, safety data sheets (SDS), and other methods of hazard communication.

The *Federal Register* notice includes specific information that formulators would be required to include on the product label.

### **Section 12(b) Reporting for NMP Exports**

Stakeholders that export products containing NMP should be aware that the January 19, 2017, proposed rulemaking triggers export notification requirements under TSCA Section 12(b). The export notification requirement applies to any NMP-containing product; it is not specific to paint removers.