



N-METHYLPYRROLIDONE PRODUCERS GROUP, INC.

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NMP Regulatory Status under REACH -- April 2018

The European Commission (EC) has drafted a law implementing a workplace exposure restriction for N-methylpyrrolidone (NMP) under the European Union's (EU) Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation. The European REACH Committee has reviewed the draft law and supports it. Neither the EU Council nor the EU Parliament voiced any objection to it before the January 27, 2018, deadline, so the restriction will automatically become part of EU legislation. The law will enter into force when it is published in the EU Journal, which is expected soon.

Despite this ongoing activity to implement the restriction requirements, on February 5, 2018, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) also recommended to the EC that NMP be phased out under the authorization provisions of REACH. This recommendation was the outcome of ECHA's final prioritization for listed chemical substances on Annex XIV, including NMP. While ECHA is not precluded from issuing an authorization recommendation while restrictions are in place, stakeholders believe it will certainly cause confusion among the regulated community.

The ECHA recommendation will be considered by the EC, which is the group that will make the final decision on whether NMP should be subject to authorization or restriction. As noted, the EC has already agreed to restrictions, has already drafted a law to implement the restrictions, and, at this time, has not indicated any fundamental change in its position. Industry groups within Europe are actively engaged in advocacy efforts with the EC and Member States in support of the restriction approach.