

## **TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination for Premanufacture Notice (PMN) P-18-0397**

**Number: P-18-0397**

**TSCA Section 5(a)(3) Determination:** The chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk (5(a)(3)(C))

**Chemical Name:**

Generic: Substituted alkanedioic acid, polymer with substituted alkanic acid

**Conditions of Use (intended, known, or reasonably foreseen)<sup>1</sup>:**

Intended conditions of use (generic): Import for use as an additive in oilfield chemicals, consistent with the manufacturing, processing, use, distribution, and disposal information described in the PMN.

Known conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are known conditions of use and found none.

Reasonably foreseen conditions of use: Applying such factors as described in footnote 1, EPA evaluated whether there are reasonably foreseen conditions of use and identified the following uses from patents: a catalyst for the hydrolysis of a resin composition, for the preparation of a water insoluble polymer, for the manufacture of a polyester biodegradable resin porous body with excellent hydrolyzability, a builder for biodegradable detergents, a plasticizer for biodegradable shape-retaining materials for bundle materials and a component of a biodegradable or bioabsorbable plastic film.

**Summary:** The chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk of injury to health or the environment, without consideration of costs or other nonrisk factors, including an unreasonable risk to a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation identified as relevant by the Administrator under the conditions of use, based on the risk assessment presented below. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substance could be persistent, the new chemical substance has low potential for bioaccumulation, such that repeated exposures are not expected

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<sup>1</sup> Under TSCA § 3(4), the term “conditions of use” means “the circumstances, as determined by the Administrator, under which a chemical substance is intended, known, or reasonably foreseen to be manufactured, processed, distributed in commerce, used, or disposed of.” In general, EPA considers the intended conditions of use of a new chemical substance to be those identified in the section 5(a) notification. Known conditions of use include activities within the United States that result from manufacture that is exempt from PMN submission requirements. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use are future circumstances, distinct from known or intended conditions of use, under which the Administrator expects the chemical substance to be manufactured, processed, distributed, used, or disposed of. The identification of “reasonably foreseen” conditions of use will necessarily be a case-by-case determination and will be highly fact-specific. Reasonably foreseen conditions of use will not be based on hypotheticals or conjecture. EPA’s identification of conditions of use includes the expectation of compliance with federal and state laws, such as worker protection standards or disposal restrictions, unless case-specific facts indicate otherwise. Accordingly, EPA will apply its professional judgment, experience, and discretion when considering such factors as evidence of current use of the new chemical substance outside the United States, evidence that the PMN substance is sufficiently likely to be used for the same purposes as existing chemical substances that are structurally analogous to the new chemical substance, and conditions of use identified in an initial PMN submission that the submitter omits in a revised PMN. The sources EPA uses to identify reasonably foreseen conditions of use include searches of internal confidential EPA PMN databases (containing use information on analogue chemicals), other U.S. government public sources, the National Library of Medicine’s Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB), the Chemical Abstract Service STN Platform, REACH Dossiers, technical encyclopedias (e.g., Kirk-Othmer and Ullmann), and Internet searches.

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to cause food-chain effects via accumulation in exposed organisms. Based on EPA's TSCA New Chemicals Program Chemical Category for Polyanionic Polymers (Monomers)<sup>2</sup> and submitted data on the new chemical substance, EPA estimates that the chemical substance has low environmental hazard and potential for the following human health hazards: irritation by all routes (oral, dermal, and inhalation). EPA concludes that the new chemical substance is not likely to present an unreasonable risk under the conditions of use.

**Fate:** Environmental fate is the determination of which environmental compartment(s) a chemical moves to, the expected residence time in the environmental compartment(s) and removal and degradation processes. Environmental fate is an important factor in determining exposure and thus in determining whether a chemical may present an unreasonable risk. EPA estimated physical/chemical and fate properties of the new chemical substance using data for analogues (polymers) and data submitted for the new chemical substance. In wastewater treatment, the new chemical substance is expected to be removed with an efficiency of 90% due to sorption and biodegradation. Removal of the new chemical substance by biodegradation is moderate. Sorption of the new chemical substance to sludge is expected to be strong and to soil and sediment is expected to be very strong. Migration of the new chemical substance to groundwater is expected to be negligible due to very strong sorption to soil and sediment. Due to low estimated vapor pressure and Henry's law constant, the new chemical substance is expected to undergo negligible volatilization to air. Overall, these estimates indicate that the new chemical substance has low potential to volatilize to air or migrate to groundwater.

**Persistence<sup>3</sup>:** Persistence is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because chemicals that are not degraded in the environment at rates that prevent substantial buildup in the environment, and thus increase potential for exposure, may present a risk if the substance presents a hazard to human health or the environment. EPA estimated degradation half-lives of the new chemical substance using data for analogues (polymers) and data submitted for the new chemical substance. EPA estimated that the new chemical substance's aerobic and anaerobic biodegradation half-lives are 2 to 6 months. These estimates indicate that the new chemical substance may be persistent in aerobic environments (e.g., surface water) and in anaerobic environments (e.g., sediment).

**Bioaccumulation<sup>4</sup>:** Bioaccumulation is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because substances that bioaccumulate in aquatic and/or terrestrial species pose the potential for elevated exposures to humans and other organisms via

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<sup>2</sup> TSCA New Chemicals Program (NCP) Chemical Categories. <https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/chemical-categories-used-review-new>.

<sup>3</sup> Persistence: A chemical substance is considered to have limited persistence if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediment of less than 2 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 2 months but less than or equal to 6 months or if there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very persistent if it has a half-life in water, soil or sediments of greater than 6 months or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4, 1999)

<sup>4</sup> Bioaccumulation: A chemical substance is considered to have a low potential for bioaccumulation if there are bioconcentration factors (BCF) or bioaccumulation factors (BAF) of less than 1,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 1,000 or

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food chains. EPA estimated the potential for the new chemical substance to bioaccumulate using data for analogues (polymers). EPA estimated that the new chemical substance has low bioaccumulation potential based on large predicted molecular volume, which limits bioavailability. Although EPA estimated that the new chemical substance could be persistent, the substance has a low potential for bioaccumulation, such that repeated exposures are not expected to cause food-chain effects via accumulation in exposed organisms.

**Human Health Hazard<sup>5</sup>:** Human health hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present an unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA estimated the human health hazard of this chemical substance based on available data on the new chemical substance. Absorption of the new chemical substance is expected to be nil by all routes (oral, dermal, and inhalation) based on physical/chemical properties. In solution, absorption of the representative structure (MW [claimed CBI]) is nil by all routes (oral, dermal, and inhalation); absorption of the LMW ([claimed CBI] < 500; [claimed CBI] <1000) is uncertain as the LMW is not identified. Also the compound may be made differently with a higher percent of LMW. EPA has identified irritation as a hazard based on the submitted data (positive for skin irritation in rabbits) on the new chemical substance. EPA qualitatively evaluated irritation effects.

**Environmental Hazard<sup>6</sup>:** Environmental hazard is relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risk because the significance of the risk is dependent

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greater and less than or equal to 5,000 or there are equivalent or analogous data. A chemical substance is considered to be very bioaccumulative if there are BCFs or BAFs of 5,000 or greater or there are equivalent or analogous data. (64 FR 60194; November 4 1999)

<sup>5</sup> A chemical substance is considered to have low human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) equal to or greater than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have moderate human health hazard if effects are observed in animal studies with a NOAEL less than 1,000 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances; a chemical substance is considered to have high human health hazard if there is evidence of adverse effects in humans or conclusive evidence of severe effects in animal studies with a NOAEL of less than or equal to 10 mg/kg/day or if there are equivalent data on analogous chemical substances. EPA may also use Benchmark Dose Levels (BMDL) derived from benchmark dose (BMD) modeling as points of departure for toxic effects. See <https://www.epa.gov/bmds/what-benchmark-dose-software-bmds>. Using this approach, a BMDL is associated with a benchmark response, for example a 5 or 10 % incidence of effect. The aforementioned characterizations of hazard (low, medium, high) would also apply to BMDLs. In the absence of animal data on a chemical or analogous chemical substance, EPA may use other data or information such as from in vitro assays, chemical categories (e.g., Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2014 Guidance on Grouping of Chemicals, Second Edition. ENV/JM/MONO(2014)4. Series on Testing & Assessment No. 194. Environment Directorate, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, France. ([http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono\(2014\)4&doclanguage=en](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=env/jm/mono(2014)4&doclanguage=en))), structure-activity relationships, and/or structural alerts to support characterizing human health hazards.

<sup>6</sup> A chemical substance is considered to have low ecotoxicity hazard if the Fish, Daphnid and Algae LC50 values are greater than 100 mg/L, or if the Fish and Daphnid chronic values (ChVs) are greater than 10.0 mg/L, or there are not effects at saturation (occurs when water solubility of a chemical substance is lower than an effect concentration), or the log Kow value exceeds QSAR cut-offs. A chemical substance is considered to have moderate ecotoxicity hazard if the lowest of the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s is greater than 1 mg/L and less than 100 mg/L, or where the Fish or Daphnid ChVs are greater than 0.1 mg/L and less than 10.0 mg/L. A chemical substance is considered to have high ecotoxicity hazard, or if either the Fish, Daphnid or Algae LC50s are less than 1 mg/L, or any Fish or Daphnid

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upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance. EPA estimated environmental hazard of this new chemical substance using predictions based on the negligible water solubility of the new chemical substance. The substance falls within the TSCA New Chemicals Category for Polyanionic Polymers (Monomers). Acute and chronic toxicity values estimated for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and algae are all no effects at saturation for the new chemical substance (representative low molecular weight monomer of [claimed CBI]). These toxicity values indicate that the new chemical substance is expected to have low environmental hazard. Because hazards are not expected up to the water solubility limit, acute and chronic concentrations of concern are not identified.

**Exposure:** The exposure to a new chemical substance is potentially relevant to whether a new chemical substance is likely to present unreasonable risks because the significance of the risk is dependent upon both the hazard (or toxicity) of the chemical substance and the extent of exposure to the substance.

EPA estimates occupational exposure and environmental release of the new chemical substance under the intended conditions of use described in the PMN using ChemSTEER (Chemical Screening Tool for Exposures and Environmental Releases; <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/chemsteer-chemical-screening-tool-exposures-and-environmental-releases>). EPA uses EFAST (the Exposure and Fate Assessment Screening Tool; <https://www.epa.gov/tsca-screening-tools/e-fast-exposure-and-fate-assessment-screening-tool-version-2014>) to estimate general population, consumer, and environmental exposures.

EPA considers workers to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation (PESS) on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population. EPA also considers PESS in conducting general population drinking water exposures by evaluating risks associated with water intake rates for multiple age groups, ranging from infants to adults. EPA considers consumers of specific products to be a potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation on the basis of greater exposure potential compared to the general population who do not use specific products.

For this new chemical assessment, exposure to workers was assessed via inhalation and dermal routes of exposure. Releases to water, air, and landfill were estimated. Exposure to the general population was assessed via drinking water and fugitive air inhalation. Exposure to the general population via landfill leachate was not assessed because releases to landfill were expected to be negligible (below modeling thresholds). Risk to consumers was not evaluated because consumer use was not identified as conditions of use.

**Risk Characterization:** EPA assesses risks to workers considering engineering controls described in the PMN but in the absence of personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves

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ChVs is less than 0.1 mg/L (Sustainable Futures <https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-futures/sustainable-futures-p2-framework-manual>).

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and respirators. If risks are preliminarily identified, EPA then considers whether the risks would be mitigated by the use of PPE (e.g., impervious gloves, respirator).

Irritation hazard to workers via inhalation exposure and dermal contact were identified based on submitted data for the new chemical substance. Risks for this endpoint were not quantified due to a lack of dose-response for this hazard, and exposure to the new chemical substance is expected to be minimal. Risks can be mitigated by the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), including impervious gloves, eye protection, and respiratory protection. EPA expects that employers will require and workers will use appropriate PPE consistent with the Material Safety Data Sheet prepared by the new chemical submitter, in a manner adequate to protect them.

Risks were not identified for the general population for irritation via drinking water or fugitive air releases since these concerns are expected to be mitigated by dilution in the media. Risks were not evaluated for the general population via ingestion of groundwater (from landfill leaching) or stack air inhalation because these exposures were below modeling thresholds. Risks were not evaluated for consumers because consumer uses were not identified as conditions of use.

Risks to the environment from acute and chronic exposure are not expected at any concentration of the new chemical substance soluble in the water (i.e., no effects at saturation).

It is reasonably foreseen, based on patent searches, that the new chemical substance could be used as a catalyst for the hydrolysis of a resin composition, for the preparation of a water insoluble polymer, for the manufacture of a polyester biodegradable resin porous body with excellent hydrolyzability, a builder for biodegradable detergents, a plasticizer for biodegradable shape-retaining materials for bundle materials and a component of a biodegradable or bioabsorbable plastic film. Because the only hazards identified for the new chemical substance are irritation, EPA expects that employers will require and workers will use appropriate PPE under all conditions of use. Therefore, risks were not identified for the reasonably foreseen uses.

Because worker exposures can be controlled by PPE, no unreasonable risks to the general population or environment were identified, and there are no expected consumer exposures, EPA has determined that the new chemical substance is not likely to present unreasonable risk to human health or the environment under the conditions of use.

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6/21/2019  
Date:

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/s/  
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