

January 22, 2009

**Subject: REACH Substances of Very High Concern and Ashland / Hercules**

Dear Customer,

The following information is provided to you in response to requests to communicate Ashland's position concerning the presence of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) in Ashland's / Hercules' products.

Ashland / Hercules can confirm that:

- None of the 15 substances currently identified as a SVHC are being used as ingredients or additives in our products that are marketed or sold on the EU market, nor are they introduced into the products in any form during the manufacturing process.
- If new SVHCs are added to the candidate list, we will review the formulations of our product portfolio to phase out the usage of these substances from our products, where possible.
- We have procedures in place to ensure compliance with the supplier REACH obligations (see appendix) for proactively and reactively informing our customers in situations where SVHCs are present in our products. Additionally, Ashland also will provide you with the latest version of a product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) upon purchase. If any SVHCs are present in the products you purchase, they will be listed on the MSDS.

If you have any question regarding the content of this letter, or any other REACH-related subject, please do not hesitate to contact us, via your Ashland representative or send us an e-mail at [REACH@ashland.com](mailto:REACH@ashland.com).

Kind regards,



Sandor Zuurendonk  
REACH project Manager  
Ashland Inc.

## Appendix

### SVHC

SVHCs, also so-called 'Annex XV substances', are clearly described in Article 57 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (the 'REACH Regulation'). These substances are identified according to the ECHA (European Chemicals Agency):

- **CMR** substances; Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or toxic to Reproduction, meeting the criteria for classification in category 1 and 2 in accordance with directive 67/548/EEC,
- **PBT** substances; Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH regulation, or
- **vPvB** substances; very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative according to the criteria in Annex XIII of the REACH Regulation, and/or
- Identified, on a case-by-case basis, from scientific evidence as causing probable serious effects to human health or the environment of an equivalent level of concern as those above (e.g. endocrine disrupters).

In October 2008 the ECHA published a candidate list of 15 SVHCs. The list is incomplete and more substances may be added. Please use the following link to see the latest version of the candidate list:

- [http://www.echa.europa.eu/chem\\_data/candidate\\_list\\_table\\_en.asp](http://www.echa.europa.eu/chem_data/candidate_list_table_en.asp)

These substances may become subject to authorization. As result the following obligations apply:

### Obligations

#### Articles

- **From 28 October, 2008**, EU and EEA suppliers of articles which contain substances on the Candidate List in a concentration above 0.1% (w/w) **must provide sufficient information, available to them, to their customers and on request to consumers within 45 days of the receipt of this request.** This information must ensure safe use of the article and, as a minimum, include the name of the substance.

#### Substances

- **From 28 October, 2008**, EU & EEA suppliers of a substance have to **provide a safety data sheet to their customers** when the substance is on the Candidate List.

#### Preparations

- **From 28 October, 2008**, EU and EEA suppliers of a preparation not classified as dangerous according to Directive 1999/45/EC have to **provide the recipients, at their request, with a safety data sheet** if the preparation contains at least one substance on the Candidate List and its individual concentration is at least 0.1% (w/w) for non gaseous preparations and at least 0.2% by volume for gaseous preparations. Ashland's products, in general, are preparations (mixtures of several substances).