

Isoeugenol esters: Human health tier II assessment

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Chemical Name in AICS	CAS Number
Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, acetate	93-29-8
Benzeneacetic acid, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl) phenyl ester	120-24-1
Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, benzoate	4194-00-7
Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, formate	7774-96-1
Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl ester, (E)-	60958-23-8
Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl ester, (E)-	84604-51-3

Preface

This assessment was carried out by staff of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) using the Inventory Multi-tiered Assessment and Prioritisation (IMAP) framework.

The IMAP framework addresses the human health and environmental impacts of previously unassessed industrial chemicals listed on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (the Inventory).

The framework was developed with significant input from stakeholders and provides a more rapid, flexible and transparent approach for the assessment of chemicals listed on the Inventory.

Stage One of the implementation of this framework, which lasted four years from 1 July 2012, examined 3000 chemicals meeting characteristics identified by stakeholders as needing priority assessment. This included chemicals for which NICNAS already held exposure information, chemicals identified as a concern or for which regulatory action had been taken overseas, and chemicals detected in international studies analysing chemicals present in babies' umbilical cord blood.

Stage Two of IMAP began in July 2016. We are continuing to assess chemicals on the Inventory, including chemicals identified as a concern for which action has been taken overseas and chemicals that can be rapidly identified and assessed by using Stage One information. We are also continuing to publish information for chemicals on the Inventory that pose a low risk to human health or the environment or both. This work provides efficiencies and enables us to identify higher risk chemicals requiring assessment.

The IMAP framework is a science and risk-based model designed to align the assessment effort with the human health and environmental impacts of chemicals. It has three tiers of assessment, with the assessment effort increasing with each tier. The Tier I assessment is a high throughput approach using tabulated electronic data. The Tier II assessment is an evaluation of risk on a substance-by-substance or chemical category-by-category basis. Tier III assessments are conducted to address specific concerns that could not be resolved during the Tier II assessment.

These assessments are carried out by staff employed by the Australian Government Department of Health and the Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy. The human health and environment risk assessments are conducted and published separately, using information available at the time, and may be undertaken at different tiers.

This chemical or group of chemicals are being assessed at Tier II because the Tier I assessment indicated that it needed further investigation.

For more detail on this program please visit: www.nicnas.gov.au

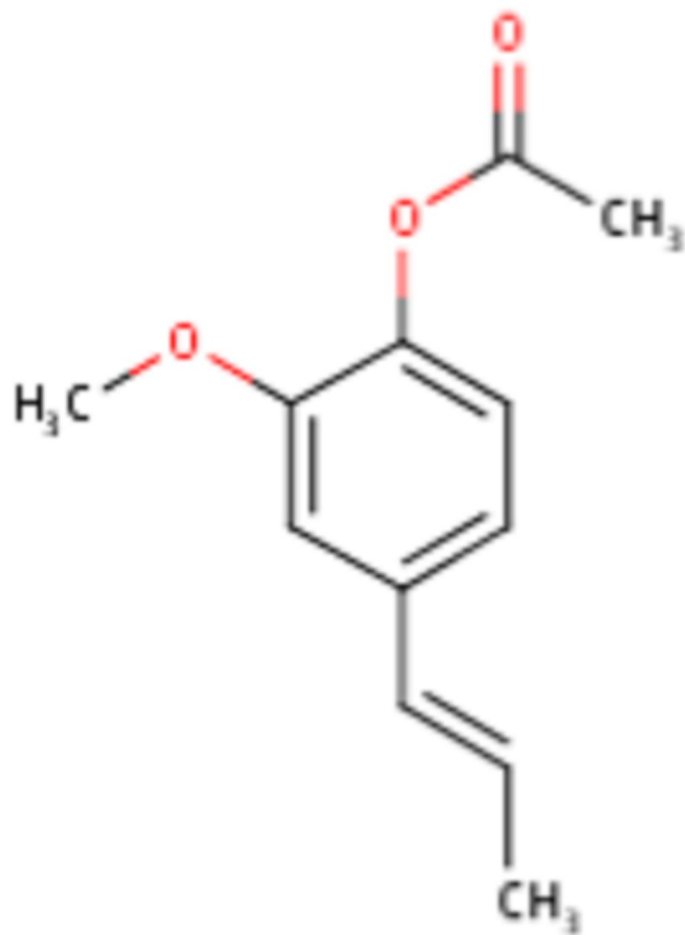
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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

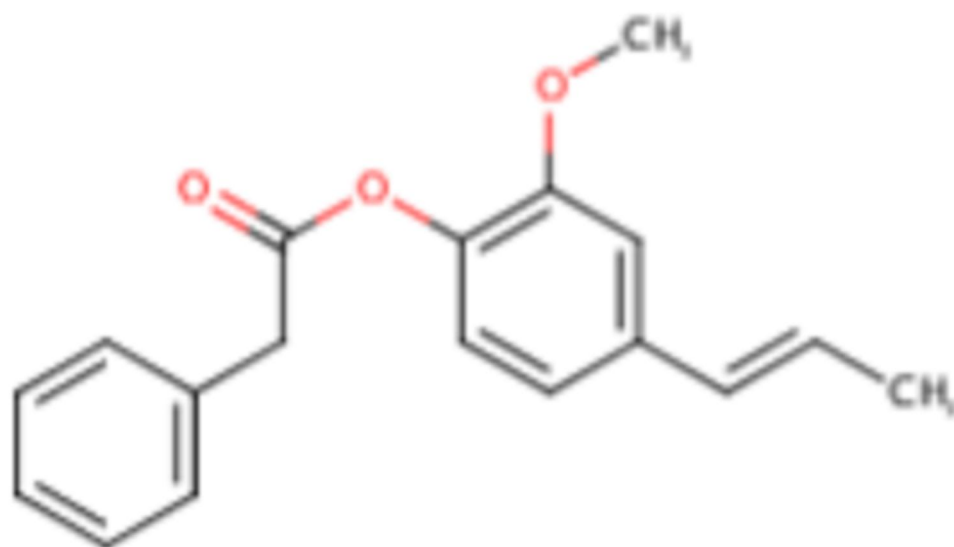
Chemical Identities

Chemical Name in AICS	Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, acetate 2-methoxy-4-propenylphenyl acetate acetyl isoeugenol isoeugenyl acetate
CAS Number	93-29-8
Structural Formula	



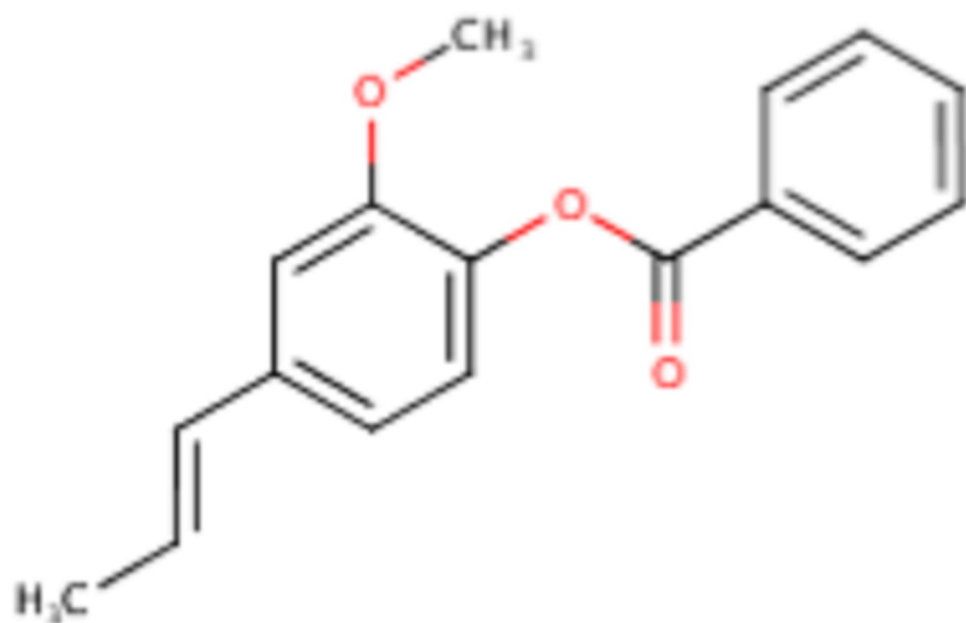
Molecular Formula	C ₁₂ H ₁₄ O ₃
Molecular Weight	206.24

Chemical Name in AICS	Benzeneacetic acid, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl ester acetic acid, phenyl-, 2-methoxy-4-propenyl phenyl ester isoeugenyl phenyl acetate 2-methoxy-4-prop-1-enylphenyl phenylacetate isoeugenyl alpha-toluate isoeugenyl phenylacetate
CAS Number	120-24-1
Structural Formula	



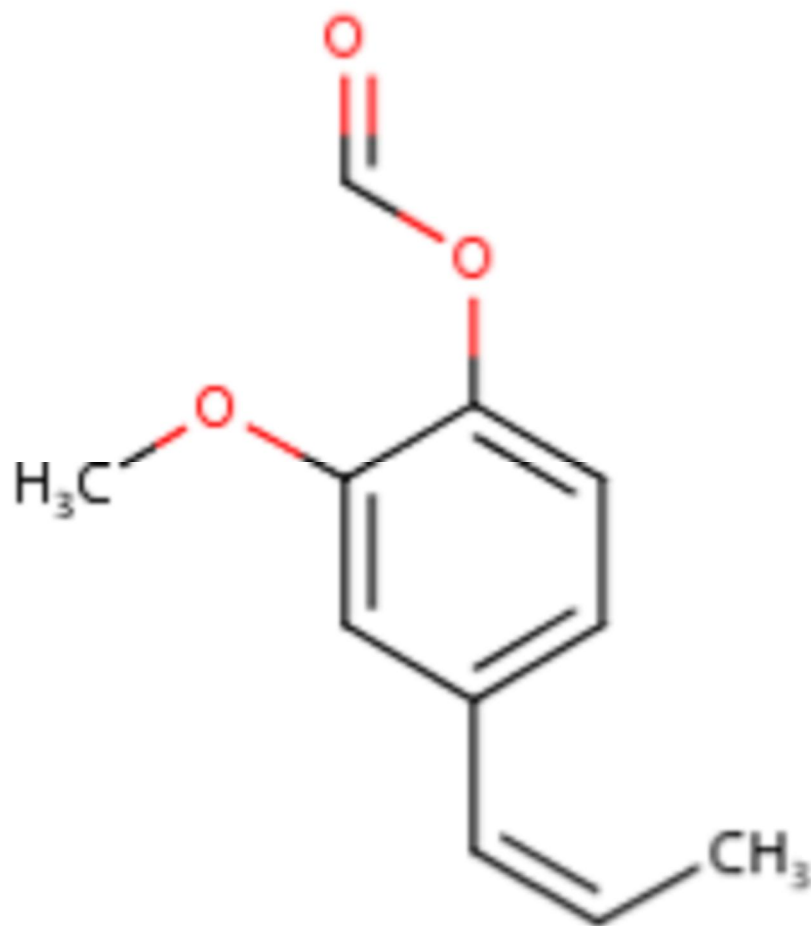
Molecular Formula	C18H18O3
Molecular Weight	282.34

Chemical Name in AICS	Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, benzoate 2-methoxy-4-prop-1-enylphenyl benzoate isoeugenol benzoate
CAS Number	4194-00-7
Structural Formula	



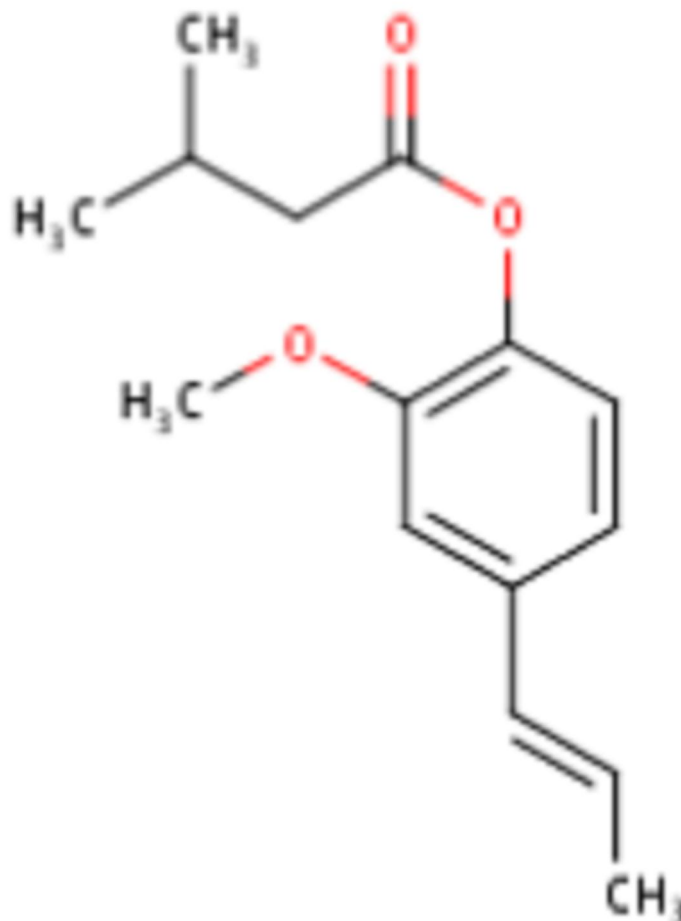
Molecular Formula	C17H16O3
Molecular Weight	268.31

Chemical Name in AICS	Phenol, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)-, formate eugenyl formate 2-methoxy-4-(1-propen-1-yl)phenyl formate isoeugenyl formate
CAS Number	7774-96-1
Structural Formula	



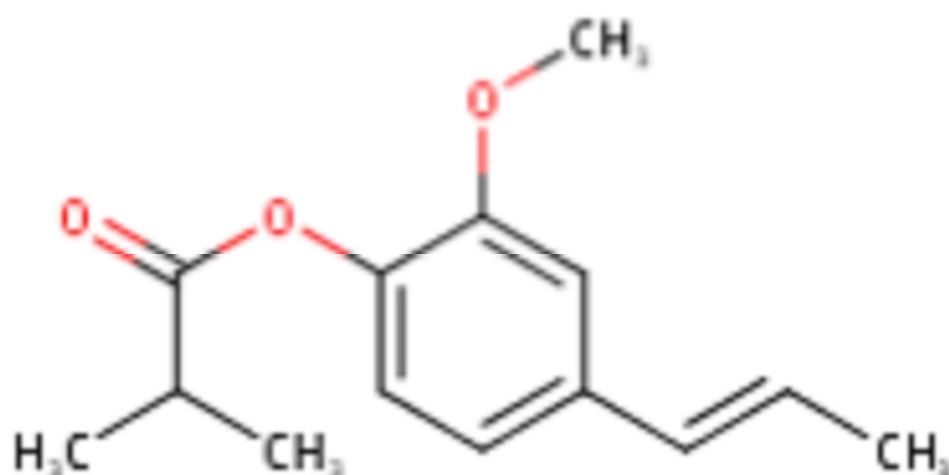
Molecular Formula	C ₁₁ H ₁₂ O ₃
Molecular Weight	192.21

Chemical Name in AICS	Butanoic acid, 3-methyl-, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl ester, (E)- (E)-2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl isovalerate
CAS Number	60958-23-8
Structural Formula	



Molecular Formula	C15H20O3
Molecular Weight	248.32

Chemical Name in AICS	Propanoic acid, 2-methyl-, 2-methoxy-4-(1-propenyl)phenyl ester, (E)- (E)-2-methoxy-4-prop-1-enylphenyl isobutyrate isoeugenyl isobutyrate, (E)-
CAS Number	84604-51-3
Structural Formula	



Molecular Formula	C14H18O3
Molecular Weight	234.29

Grouping Rationale

This group is composed of various esters of isoeugenol. Three of the chemicals are known to be used in perfumes (see **Use** section). Upon exposure, it is expected that the chemicals will be hydrolysed into isoeugenol and the corresponding carboxylate ions, all of low toxicity. On the basis of similar uses and that the toxic effects of the chemicals are dependent on the formation of isoeugenol, the assessment of these chemicals as a group is considered appropriate.

Import, Manufacture and Use

Australian

No specific Australian use, import, or manufacturing information has been identified.

International

The following international uses have been identified through Galleria Chemica; the Substances and Preparations in Nordic countries (SPIN) database; the European Commission Cosmetic Ingredients and Substances (CosIng) database; and the United States (US) Personal Care Product Council International Nomenclature of Cosmetic Ingredients (INCI) Dictionary.

Isoeugenyl acetate, isoeugenyl phenyl acetate and isoeugenyl benzoate have reported cosmetic use as perfuming agents and are listed on the International Fragrance Association (IFRA) Transparency List.

Isoeugenyl acetate has reported domestic uses, including in:

- cleaning and washing agents; and
- odour agents.

It has been reported that isoeugenyl acetate has been used at final concentrations up to 1 % in perfumes, 0.05 % in other leave-on products and 0.2 % in rinse-off products (Opdyke, 1975).

Isoeugenyl acetate, isoeugenyl phenyl acetate and isoeugenyl formate have reported non-industrial use as flavouring agents (JECFA, 2004).

Restrictions

Australian

The chemicals are listed in the *Poisons Standard—the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons* (SUSMP), as derivatives of isoeugenol, in Schedules 5 and 6 (SUSMP, 2018). These restrictions reflect changes made following scheduling recommendations for isoeugenol in the previous IMAP assessment published in Tranche 14.

Schedule 6:

'ISOEUGENOL except:

- (a) when included in Schedule 5; or
- (b) in preparations not intended for skin contact containing 10 per cent or less of isoeugenol; or
- (c) in preparations intended for skin contact containing 0.02 per cent or less of isoeugenol.'

Schedule 5:

'ISOEUGENOL in preparations not intended for skin contact containing 25 per cent or less of isoeugenol except in preparations containing 10 per cent or less of isoeugenol.'

Schedule 6 chemicals are described as 'Substances with a moderate potential for causing harm, the extent of which can be reduced through the use of distinctive packaging with strong warnings and safety directions on the label'. Schedule 6 chemicals are labelled with 'Poison' (SUSMP, 2018).

Schedule 5 chemicals are described as 'Substances with a low potential for causing harm, the extent of which can be reduced through the use of appropriate packaging with simple warnings and safety directions on the label.' Schedule 5 chemicals are labelled with 'Caution' (SUSMP, 2018).

International

No known restrictions have been identified.

Existing Worker Health and Safety Controls

Hazard Classification

The chemicals are not listed on the Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS) (Safe Work Australia).

Exposure Standards

Australian

No specific exposure standards are available.

International

No specific exposure standards are available.

Health Hazard Information

There are minimal toxicity data available for chemicals in this group. The oral median lethal dose (LD50) value for isoeugenyl acetate is reported to be 3450 mg/kg bw in rats and the dermal LD50 value is greater than 5000 mg/kg bw in rabbits (Galleria Chemica). Based on these reported values for the simple ester, isoeugenyl acetate, it is expected that the chemicals in this group will have low acute oral and dermal toxicity.

Isoeugenyl acetate was tested on 23 volunteers at a concentration of 10 % in petrolatum in a maximisation test and was reported to produce no sensitisation reactions (Opdyke, 1975).

These chemicals, as previously mentioned, are related to the chemical isoeugenol, which has been assessed by NICNAS under the IMAP framework, 'Isoeugenol and constituent isomers' (NICNAS). In the absence of information to indicate a lower toxicity for these chemicals, and as isoeugenol is readily formed in the body by ester hydrolysis, data from the health hazard information of the parent chemical isoeugenol will be used for the toxicity assessment by applying read-across principles (OECD, 2014). Therefore, this report should be read in conjunction with the Tier II assessment report 'Isoeugenol and constituent isomers' which is available at https://www.nicnas.gov.au/chemical-information/imap-assessments/imap-group-assessment-report?assessment_id=1826. Toxicity information for isoeugenol is summarised below.

Isoeugenol is a commonly used fragrance ingredient and a well-known consumer allergen classified as hazardous in the HCIS (Safe Work Australia) for acute toxicity (from oral and dermal routes of exposure), skin and eye irritation, skin sensitisation and carcinogenicity. The original assessment of isoeugenol, published in Tranche 14, recommended new classifications for acute toxicity (dermal route), irritation (skin and eyes) and skin sensitisation. The report was republished following the provision of new information from subacute inhalation toxicity studies in rats that identified dose-related epithelial inflammation and degeneration of the nasal cavity. Therefore, an additional classification for respiratory irritation is also recommended and is being published concurrently as a separate report at the above link (NICNAS). The chemical differences between the esters and the parent alcohol isoeugenol are such that data on irritation and acute dermal toxicity should not be read across for these chemicals.

The carboxylic acid component of these esters consists of chemicals which are either endogenous in the human body (acetic acid, formic acid) and considered to be relatively nontoxic, or salts of acids that are likely to have limited potential for systemic toxicity (benzoic acid, isobutyric and isovaleric acid). The latter are either used as food additives or are naturally occurring in foods (HSDB).

Risk Characterisation

Critical Health Effects

The critical health effects for the hydrolysis product, isoeugenol, include systemic effects that are long-term (carcinogenicity) or acute (skin sensitisation). The chemical is harmful following ingestion. Other health effects associated with isoeugenol will not necessarily be relevant to the chemicals in this group.

Public Risk Characterisation

Isoeugenol and its derivatives (including the esters in this group) are currently listed on Schedules 5 and 6 of the *Poisons Standard—the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons* (SUSMP) for preparations containing the chemical (see **Restrictions - Australia** section). At concentrations greater than those specified in the SUSMP, a number of warning statements, first aid instructions and safety directions relating to the chemical apply.

Although the uses of the chemicals in cosmetic and domestic products in Australia are not known, isoeugenol is widely used as a fragrance compound in cosmetic and/or domestic products overseas at concentrations up to 0.02 %. The primary risk to consumers using products containing these chemicals is skin sensitisation following exposure to cosmetics or consumer products containing the chemicals. The SUSMP limits the concentrations of isoeugenol and its derivatives in consumer products and provides warning labels, depending on whether skin contact is expected.

These controls are considered adequate to minimise the risk to public health posed by cosmetic and/or domestic products containing the chemicals; therefore, the chemicals are not considered to pose an unreasonable risk to public health.

Occupational Risk Characterisation

Given the critical systemic long-term and acute health effects, the chemicals could pose an unreasonable risk to workers unless adequate control measures to minimise dermal, ocular and respiratory exposure are implemented. The chemicals should be appropriately classified and labelled to ensure that a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) at a workplace (such as an employer) has adequate information to determine the appropriate controls.

The data available support hazard classification in the HCIS (Safe Work Australia) (see **Recommendation** section).

NICNAS Recommendation

Assessment of the chemicals is considered to be sufficient, provided that the recommended amendment to the classification is adopted, and labelling and all other requirements are met under workplace health and safety and poisons legislation as adopted by the relevant state or territory.

Regulatory Control

Public Health

Products containing the chemicals should be labelled in accordance with state and territory legislation (SUSMP, 2018).

Work Health and Safety

The chemicals in this group are recommended for classification and labelling aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) as below.

This assessment does not consider classification of physical hazards and environmental hazards. These are outside the scope of this assessment and any existing HCIS classifications in those categories are not recommended to be changed.

The recommended classification is based on read across principles (see **Grouping rationale** section) and should be used as a default for all members of the group. If empirical data become available for any member of the group indicating that a lower (or higher) classification is appropriate for a specific chemical, these may be used to amend the default classification for that chemical.

From 1 January 2017, under the model Work Health and Safety Regulations, chemicals are no longer to be classified under the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances system.

Hazard	Approved Criteria (HSIS) ^a	GHS Classification (HCIS) ^b
Sensitisation	Not Applicable	May cause an allergic skin reaction - Cat. 1 (H317)
Carcinogenicity	Not Applicable	Suspected of causing cancer - Cat. 2 (H351)

^a Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(2004)].

^b Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) United Nations, 2009. Third Edition.

* Existing Hazard Classification. No change recommended to this classification

Advice for consumers

Products containing the chemicals should be used according to the instructions on the label.

Advice for industry

Control measures

Control measures to minimise the risk from oral, dermal, ocular and inhalation exposure to the chemicals should be implemented in accordance with the hierarchy of controls. Approaches to minimise risk include substitution, isolation and engineering controls. Measures required to eliminate, or minimise risk arising from storing, handling and using a hazardous chemical depend on the physical form and the manner in which the chemical is used. Examples of control measures which could minimise the risk include, but are not limited to:

- using closed systems or isolating operations;
- health monitoring for any worker who is at risk of exposure to the chemical, if valid techniques are available to monitor the effect on the worker's health;
- minimising manual processes and work tasks through automating processes;
- work procedures that minimise splashes and spills;
- regularly cleaning equipment and work areas; and
- using protective equipment that is designed, constructed, and operated to ensure that the worker does not come into contact with the chemical.

Guidance on managing risks from hazardous chemicals are provided in the *Managing risks of hazardous chemicals in the workplace—Code of practice* available on the Safe Work Australia website.

Personal protective equipment should not solely be relied upon to control risk and should only be used when all other reasonably practicable control measures do not eliminate or sufficiently minimise risk. Guidance in selecting personal protective equipment can be obtained from Australian, Australian/New Zealand or other approved standards.

Obligations under workplace health and safety legislation

Information in this report should be taken into account to help meet obligations under workplace health and safety legislation as adopted by the relevant state or territory. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ensuring that hazardous chemicals are correctly classified and labelled;
- ensuring that (material) safety data sheets ((M)SDS) containing accurate information about the hazards (relating to both health hazards and physicochemical (physical) hazards) of the chemical are prepared; and
- managing risks arising from storing, handling and using a hazardous chemical.

Your work health and safety regulator should be contacted for information on the work health and safety laws in your jurisdiction.

Information on how to prepare an (M)SDS and how to label containers of hazardous chemicals are provided in relevant codes of practice such as the *Preparation of safety data sheets for hazardous chemicals—Code of practice* and *Labelling of workplace hazardous chemicals—Code of practice*, respectively. These codes of practice are available from the Safe Work Australia website.

A review of the physical hazards of the chemicals have not been undertaken as part of this assessment.

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