



EuPC statement on the intended classification of TIO2 as a Carcinogen 2 through inhalation

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EuPC is the leading EU-level Trade Association, based in Brussels, representing European Plastics Converters. EuPC now totals about 51 European Plastics Converting national and European industry associations, it represents close to 50,000 companies, producing over 45 million tonnes of plastic products every year. The European plastics industry makes a significant contribution to the welfare in Europe by enabling innovation, creating quality of life to citizens and facilitating resource efficiency and climate protection. More than 1.6 million people are working in about 50,000 companies (mainly small and medium sized companies in the converting sector) to create a turnover in excess of 280 billion € per year.

On 9 June 2017, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) announced in a press release its conclusion that the available scientific evidence meets the criteria in the CLP Regulation to classify titanium dioxide as a substance suspected of causing cancer through the inhalation route – a carcinogen category 2. The RAC's opinion is expected to be formally adopted later by written procedure or at the September RAC meeting. The full version of the press release can be found [here](#).

TIO2 is widely used across many industries including the plastics industry as the major white pigment/opacifier, but may also be used for properties such as anti-UV and stabilizer. TIO2 may be found in nano or non-nanoform and undergo a number of treatments. Those are however not distinguished in the registration dossier, and ANSES in its original proposal suggested the classification regardless of the shape or treatment.

The RAC-proposed classification of TIO2 as carcinogen 2 by inhalation excludes any carcinogenic effect from skin contact or ingestion. This is an important information as this excludes any risks for consumers of plastics articles, since this additive is firmly bound into the polymer matrix¹. Potential risk is therefore related only to occupational exposure at the stage of converting of plastics. And therefore, there is no risk for the downstream users of plastics products containing TIO2 as there is no exposure route by inhalation.

In terms of regulatory obligations/restrictions, there is no change for the downstream users.

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¹ <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0924224416303843>