

REACH Restriction No. 78 on synthetic polymer microparticles (SPM)

The REACH restriction on synthetic polymer microparticles (SPM) as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 outlines the conditions and restrictions related to synthetic polymer microparticles (SPM) under Annex XVII to REACH. The restriction aims to minimize the release of synthetic polymer microparticles into the environment.

Solid Polymer Microparticles (SPMs) are products fulfilling the following criteria:

- Are considered polymers acc. to OECD polymer definition
- Are solid acc. definitions laid down in paragraph 2 of the restriction
- Have a fraction of at least 1% with a particle size of <5mm

SPM shall not be placed on the market as substances on their own or, where the synthetic polymer microparticles are present to confer a sought-after characteristic, in mixtures in a concentration equal to or greater than 0,01 % by weight.

For Epoxy products usually derogations apply:

- Epoxy products are exempt if they are as substances on their own or in mixtures used at industrial sites.
- If the SPM's physical properties are permanently modified during intended end use in such a way that the polymer no longer falls within the scope of this entry or are permanently incorporated into a solid matrix during intended end use.

The following requirements must be met when a derogation is applicable.

Information requirements: Suppliers of SPM must provide instructions for use and disposal (IFUD), a generic statements listing the restriction, generic information on the identity of the SPM and concentration in the mixture if applicable.

This should be done usually via the Safety Datasheet (SDS) and information should be **provided by 17th October 2025**.

Annual Reporting requirements: Manufacturers and industrial users must report the use and environmental release of SPMs. For this reporting, which needs to be done in IUCLID, the database which is also used for REACH registrations, information from the SDS is needed such as generic identity and SPM content.

Call for action:

Some Epoxy products, e.g. Solid Epoxy Resins (SER) are considered SPM. These products can be manufactured within the EU, imported and further formulated by downstream users. In many cases Downstream users (EU formulators or companies sourcing outside EU) will have to rely on the information provided by their suppliers/importers to be able to include such information into their products' SDSs in order to update their SDS in time of the 17th of October 2025. Therefore, we ask all actors in the supply chain to provide the relevant information on request as soon as possible, prior to the above date.

About Epoxy Europe

Epoxy Europe is the forum for Europe's major epoxy resins manufacturers. For more information, please visit our website:

<https://epoxy-europe.eu>



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