

# EAC – European Aminocarboxylates Committee

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## EDTA - FAVORABLE RESULTS OF THE EUROPEAN RISK ASSESSMENT

### Introduction

The EU authorities made an extensive Risk Assessment on EDTA and its Sodium salt under the European Existing Substances Regulation for the protection of human health and the environment.

The Risk Assessment Report was discussed and endorsed by the technical experts of EU member states.

### Favorable conclusions

#### Human Health

- No concern for consumers in any application
- No concern for workers
- No concern for the public who may be exposed via the environment

(Conclusions with proviso of confirmation of the product classification proposals by the Commission Working Group CMR on the Classification and Labeling of Dangerous Substances)

#### Environment

- Low aquatic toxicity
  - No risk of EDTA for the aqueous environment below the Predicted No-Effect Concentration (PNEC) of 2.2 mg/l
  - No risk to the aqueous environment due to the influence of EDTA on the mobility of heavy metals, eutrophication and nutrient deficiency
- No need for EDTA to be classified and labeled with a specific environmental symbol and/or risk phrase
- Not persistent in the aqueous environment
  - Biodegradability of EDTA depends on its concentration, pH and the species of complexed ions.
  - Photochemical degradation of Fe(III), Co(III) and Mn(II) EDTA complexes
  - Presence of biodegradable metabolites that are non-toxic to the aquatic environment
  - For risk characterization the Risk Assessment Report uses a worst-case assumption of 'no biodegradation'
- No bioaccumulation in living organisms through the food chain

### Limiting the risks

The technical experts of the EU member states indicated a need for limiting the risks to the aqueous environment due to high releases from;

- the use in industrial detergents
- the use by paper mills
- the use by circuit board producers (metal plating)
- the recovery of EDTA containing wastes



**Managing these possible risks**

Risk from EDTA for the local aqueous environment is only expected to occur in some extreme cases at sites where a large, highly concentrated effluent -lacking adequate treatment - is connected to a small surface water recipient.

In such a situation the concentration of EDTA in the local aqueous environment near the effluent release point could exceed the established no-effect concentration.

In those cases appropriate measures should be considered to reduce the effluent concentrations.

**For more detailed information please contact your supplier or the CEFIC sector group EAC.**