



CPCA Prepares for WTO Showdown Over Controversial EU Classification for Titanium Dioxide

Ottawa, ON, December 20, 2018

This week the European Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its intention to proceed with a number of regulatory actions including the proposal to classify titanium dioxide (TiO₂) as a Category 2 Carcinogen under the EU's Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation. If allowed to proceed, this regulation will cause significant global trade disruptions that will impact Canadian industries including paint and coatings.

The Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) has been engaged on this issue through its membership in the International Paint and Print Ink Council (IPPIC) and its member associations in Europe. The WTO notification allows for non-European countries to engage on the issue as it is a Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT). CPCA is now engaging with Canadian trade authorities regarding the significant and unwarranted socio-economic and trade impacts that would result from the proposed classification, which would provide no benefits for the protection of human health.

CPCA President and CEO Gary LeRoux added, "to date the European process has been flawed and has not considered over 50 years of scientific evidence proving that titanium dioxide is a safe and crucial ingredient in paint and coatings products. The global industry remains hopeful that Europe will resolve the issue when it comes before the WTO."

TiO₂ and Paint

The Canadian paint and coatings industry has always taken its responsibility for health, safety and the environment as its highest priority and has ensured that products meet the highest health and safety standards.

TiO₂ is an inert inorganic compound that is used as a white pigment in many industrial applications. These applications include the manufacture of paints, coatings, printing inks and wallcoverings where titanium dioxide plays a critical role in providing essential product properties: whiteness, covering power, brightness, stability and durability of colour that cannot be achieved with other raw materials. Titanium dioxide is also used in many other consumer products.

The powder form of titanium dioxide presents zero risk to consumers when incorporated in a finished product such as paint. Consumers and professionals using paint or ink products cannot be exposed to the powder form of TiO₂, once it is embedded in a paint or printing ink. It is safe for consumers.

During the manufacturing process exposure to TiO₂ powder might occur, however national level regulations exist around dust exposure and protection of workers. Studies over 50 years, including 24,000 workers, have not found any correlation between workers exposed to titanium dioxide whatsoever. In addition, the five tests on rats cited by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) used unrealistically high amounts of titanium dioxide that would not be allowed in a manufacturing environment. This is in stark contrast to more than 2,000 tests conducted over many years on the same subject with the opposite conclusion. Based on this, CPCA and IPPIC



members consider the use of titanium dioxide in paints, coatings, printing inks and wallcoverings to be safe for workers during the manufacturing process. This is further supported by the ongoing commitment of our member companies to take every precaution to ensure the safety of their products and workers throughout their supply chain. It is safe for workers.

TiO₂ was scheduled for evaluation under Europe's Reach Regulation in 2017, which is designed to recommend the most appropriate regulatory measures for a substance based on whether it poses a risk to environment or human health. This process was pre-empted in 2016, by the ECHA without evidence to support the current classification. CPCA and all IPPIC members, representing the coatings industry around the world, strongly supports reliance on sound scientific evidence to determine the risk management measures required for TiO₂. Anything less would mean a failure of the assessment process.

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About CPCA

Since 1913, the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association (CPCA) has represented Canada's major paint and coatings manufacturers, and their industry suppliers and distributors in three primary product categories: architectural paints, industrial products and automotive coatings. In Canada, CPCA members have more than 261 paint manufacturing establishments, own more than 3,000 retail outlets, supply products to another 5,000 retail stores and more than 7,500 auto body shops. This represents annual retail sales of more than \$12.3 billion, employing directly and indirectly 86,300 employees.

