

Customers of SiC Ma members buying crude and grain not affected by CLH dossier

In March 2018, the EU Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) approved a proposal for harmonized classification and labelling (CLH) of silicon carbide (SiC) fibres. The decision and the proposal do not concern SiC crude and grain. Customers of SiC Ma members buying crude and grain are therefore not affected by the draft CLH proposal.

The CLH proposal concludes that SiC fibres and cleavage fragments that fall within the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of a 'fibre' should be classified as carcinogenic 1B. The WHO defines 'fibres' as particles with a length of $>5\mu\text{m}$, a diameter of $<3\mu\text{m}$ and an aspect ratio (length/diameter) of $>3:1$.

The conclusions of the CLH proposal are based on scientific studies on whiskers. Nevertheless, RAC took a decision for all particles falling under the WHO definition, irrespective whether or not they showed adverse effects. SiC Ma disagrees with this decision from a scientific perspective and will provide further comments to the European Commission and Member States. Scientific studies undertaken by SiC Ma and other publicly available information indicate that a differentiated view on SiC fibres is required. None of the scientific studies, to our knowledge, showed evidence that cleavage fragments and short fibres have carcinogenic effects. Only very long fibres, so-called 'whiskers' (diameter $<1\mu\text{m}$, length $>10\mu\text{m}$; aspect ratio >10) may be considered carcinogenic.