

No classification for SiC products

In March 2018, the EU Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) made a proposal for harmonized classification and labelling (CLH) of silicon carbide (SiC) fibres. This proposal has been approved by the European Commission and will be applicable 18 months after the publication of this decision in the official journal of the EU.

The decision and the classification do not concern SiC crude and grain. Customers of SiC Ma members buying crude and grain are therefore not affected by the new classification of SiC fibres.

The new classification foresees that SiC fibres and cleavage fragments which 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 decision is based on scientific studies for 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. 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) which are produced in a different way than SiC crude and grains may be considered carcinogenic.