

Statement concerning use of Styrene in the UPR sector

The European Unsaturated Polyester Resin (UPR) Sector Group in CEFIC¹, which is currently composed of AOC, Ineos Composites, Polynt Composites and Scott Bader, has been and will continue to be deeply committed to innovation and technological development of unsaturated polyester resin systems. Over the past decades, the UPR has taken many initiatives towards the continuous improvement of products, equipment, transport, handling, best practices and information for the benefit of its consumers and workers. This has helped to ensure the safe handling of UP resins and the ever growing success of these resins in numerous applications. The UPR also works closely with and actively supports, EuCIA, the leading Brussels based Association of the European Composites Industry, in sharing best practices of safe handling of UP/VE resins within composites manufacturing and makes these guides available from the UPR website.²

The UPR systems developed by the members employ a range of technologies to meet the challenging material performance and practical requirements of our customers. The UPR believes that given that there is a high level of understanding in the toxicology of styrene, resulting from its long history of use and the more recent, extensive studies carried out under REACH and the development of the Harmonised Classification under the CLP Regulation No 1272/2008. The hazards are well understood and therefore risk management measures can be applied effectively. The UPR industry is committed to continuous innovation and significant product development efforts by members have been able to reduce VOC in formulations through use of reduced styrene content resins, low styrene emissions systems and styrene-free formulations that are appropriate for certain applications and are evaluated on a case by case basis.

The UPR continues to monitor changes in toxicology and the regulatory environment for styrene and other key substances employed in the systems. In addition to the published safe handling guides, the UPR members also engage with downstream users to identify the most practical RMM to ensure safe use of their products and to further reduce exposure as far as practicable.

The UPR is committed to further reducing exposure to hazardous substances, through product development but also through better understanding exposure scenarios and further developing our safe use guidance. Therefore, we are working with our downstream users in order to best support them and to ensure that the European Industries that rely on UPR resins can continue to manufacture their products and provide their essential services.

For more information on the **European UP Resin Sector Group** please visit the following website:
<http://www.upresins.org/>

For more information on **EuCIA** please visit the following website: <http://www.eucia.eu>

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¹ CEFIC is the European Chemical Industry Council, see <https://cefic.org/>

² <https://www.upresins.org/safe-handling-guides/>

