



Brussels, 9.11.2021
C(2021) 7882 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 9.11.2021

**granting an authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European
Parliament and of the Council to Novo Nordisk A/S for a use of 4-(1,1,3,3-
tetramethylbutyl)phenol, ethoxylated (4-tert-OPnEO)**

(Only the English text is authentic)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC¹, and in particular Article 64(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) 4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol, ethoxylated ('4-tert-OPnEO') is listed in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and uses of that substance are subject to the authorisation requirement in Article 56(1)(a) of that Regulation.
- (2) On 14 May 2019, Novo Nordisk A/S ('the applicant') submitted an application in accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 for authorisation for a use of 4-tert-OPnEO. The use for which authorisation was sought is as a solvent/detergent agent for virus inactivation in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products used in the treatment of rare bleeding disorders. The use takes place at two sites referred to with the environmental contribution scenario 1 ('ECS 1') and 2 ('ECS 2').
- (3) On 24 June 2020, the Commission received the opinions on the application adopted by the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and by the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) of the European Chemicals Agency² and sent to it pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 64(5) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.
- (4) RAC concluded in its opinion that it is not possible to determine a predicted no-effect concentration (PNEC) for the endocrine disrupting properties for the environment of 4-tert-OPnEO in accordance with Section 6.4 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, and that therefore 4-tert-OPnEO is a substance for which it is not possible to determine a threshold for the purposes of Article 60(3)(a) of that Regulation. As a result, paragraph 2 of Article 60 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 does not apply to that substance and authorisations may therefore only be granted with respect to that substance under paragraph 4 of that Article.

¹ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

² <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/6b5ffbd9-740b-dd3a-ddab-a78563cc4efc>

- (5) RAC noted that the risk to the environment cannot be excluded for non-threshold substances, even at low exposure levels. Consequently, RAC takes the emissions of the substance as a proxy for the risk.
- (6) RAC concluded that the risk management measures and operational conditions described in the application are not appropriate to limit the risk to the environment, especially as regards ECS 2. In particular, RAC noted that a significant concentration of 4-tert-OPnEO had been measured in the grey wastewater tank for the ECS 2. RAC also considered that there are uncertainties about the representativeness of the calculated releases with regard to both sites. Therefore, RAC recommended conditions and monitoring arrangements. Having evaluated RAC's assessment, the Commission agrees with its conclusion and recommendations.
- (7) SEAC concluded in its opinion that it has no substantial reservations on the quantitative and the qualitative elements of the applicant's assessment of the socio-economic benefits and the risk to the environment associated with the continued use of the substance. Taking into account SEAC's assessment, the lack of scientific knowledge at present to quantify or monetise the risk to the environment associated with the use of the substance, the estimated emissions across both sites covered by the application of less than two kilograms of the substance per year and the estimated benefits due to avoided profit losses and avoided job losses at minimum in the order of hundreds of millions of euros over the entire review period, the estimated cost of avoiding the remaining releases of the substance in the order of between millions of euros and tens of millions of euros per kilogram, the qualitatively assessed additional socio-economic benefits of the continued use due to the availability of treatment of haemophilia and other rare bleeding disorders, as well as any relevant distributional impact, the Commission concludes that the applicant has demonstrated that the socio-economic benefits of the continued use of the substance outweigh the risk to human health and the environment arising from that use.
- (8) A suitable alternative should be safer, available, and technically and economically feasible. Where suitable alternatives are available in the Union, but not technically or economically feasible for the applicant or its downstream users, an authorisation may be granted if the applicant for authorisation submits a substitution plan. In order to be considered technically feasible, an alternative to the substance should be capable of providing the level of technical performance functionally necessary for the use applied for.
- (9) In its opinion, SEAC concluded that there are no available alternative substances or technologies by the sunset date. The Commission, having evaluated SEAC's assessment and all relevant information available, acknowledges that the identified alternatives do not provide the necessary virus inactivation needed for the medicinal products as required by the applicable regulatory framework. The Commission therefore considers that the identified alternative does not allow the functionality needed for the use applied for. Therefore, the Commission agrees with SEAC's conclusion and considers that the applicant has discharged its burden of proof in demonstrating the absence of suitable alternatives both in the Union and for the applicant.
- (10) Therefore, having regard to the conditions laid down in Article 60(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, it is appropriate to authorise the use of 4-tert-OPnEO described in the application, provided that the risk management measures and operational

conditions described in the chemical safety report as well as the conditions set out in this Decision are fully applied.

- (11) The Commission has based its assessment on all relevant scientific evidence currently available, as assessed by RAC and SEAC, and, after having carried out a detailed examination, based its conclusions on a sufficient amount of material and reliable information allowing it to conclude. Nevertheless, additional scientific evidence would allow the Commission to perform its assessment on a more robust or broad evidentiary base in the future. Hence, it is appropriate to require the generation of additional exposure and emission information.
- (12) SEAC recommended in its opinion that the review period referred to in Article 60(9)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 should be set at 12 years. The Commission agrees with that recommendation, taking into account the relevant elements from SEAC's assessments, and, in particular, the socio-economic benefits, the lack of suitable alternatives within a shorter timeline, the long investment cycles, as well as the regulatory approvals and quality requirements for medicinal products.
- (13) The language used to describe the risk management measures and operational conditions in the application for authorisation may be different from the official language of the Member State where the use takes place. Therefore, in order to facilitate supervision and enforcement of compliance with the authorisation, it is appropriate to require the authorisation holder to submit, upon request, a brief summary of those risk management measures and operational conditions to the competent authority of that Member State in an official language of that Member State.
- (14) This Decision does not affect the obligation of the authorisation holder to ensure that a use of a substance does not adversely affect human health or the environment, having regard to the principle set out in Article 1(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. Furthermore, this Decision does not affect the obligation of the authorisation holder under Article 60(10) of that Regulation to ensure that the exposure is reduced to as low a level as is technically and practically possible or the obligation of the employer to eliminate or reduce to a minimum risks to the health and safety of workers at work involving hazardous chemical agents in accordance with Article 5(2) of Council Directive 98/24/EC³. This Decision does not affect the application of Union law in the area of health and safety at work, in particular Council Directives 89/391/EEC⁴, 92/85/EEC⁵, 94/33/EC⁶, and 98/24/EC, as well as any national binding occupational limit values which may be stricter than the applicable limit values under Union law.
- (15) This Decision does not affect any obligation to comply with any other regulatory requirements including emission limit values set in accordance with Directive

³ Council Directive 98/24/EC of 7 April 1998 on the protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work (fourteenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (OJ L 131, 5.5.1998, p. 11).

⁴ Council Directive 89/391/EEC of 12 June 1989 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work (OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1).

⁵ Council Directive 92/85/EEC of 19 October 1992 on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (tenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (OJ L 348, 28.11.1992, p. 1).

⁶ Council Directive 94/33/EC of 22 June 1994 on the protection of young people at work (OJ L 216, 20.8.1994, p. 12).

2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷ or Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council⁸, nor any obligation to comply with emission limit values set to achieve compliance with the environmental quality standards established by Member States in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council⁹ or the environmental quality standards established in Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council¹⁰. Compliance with the provisions of this Decision does not necessarily imply compliance with emission limit values or environmental quality standards under any other provisions of Union law, which may include further or more onerous requirements.

- (16) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee established by Article 133 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

An authorisation is hereby granted in accordance with Article 60(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 for the following use of 4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol, ethoxylated (4-tert-OPnEO):

Authorisation number	Authorised use
REACH/21/11/0	As a solvent/detergent agent for virus inactivation in the manufacture of pharmaceutical products used in the treatment of rare bleeding disorders

The authorisation is granted subject to the risk management measures and operational conditions described in the chemical safety report¹¹, and to the conditions set out in Article 2.

Article 2

1. The authorisation shall be subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 2 to 6.
2. With regard to ECS 1 and ECS 2, the authorisation holder shall perform an adequate measurement programme with the aim of providing a representative release estimate, as well as an evaluation of the efficiency of the washing and rinsing processes of the production systems, in order to exclude the presence of unknown sources of release of 4-tert-OPnEO to the grey water tanks. This programme shall be carried out by 4 January 2022.

⁷ Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe (OJ L 152, 11.6.2008, p. 1).

⁸ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17).

⁹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1).

¹⁰ Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC, 86/280/EEC and amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 84).

¹¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42101>

3. With regard to ECS2, the authorisation holder shall carry out an assessment study on the optimisation of the risk management measures and operational conditions aimed at a further minimisation of the releases of 4-tert-OPnEO into the environment. This assessment shall be carried out by 4 January 2023, taking into account the outcome of the measurement programme referred to in paragraph 2. The authorisation holder shall take action upon the results of that programme and document it.
4. The authorisation holder shall develop and carry out a monitoring programme of 4-tert-OPnEO and its principal degradation products in the wastewater prior to release to the off-site municipal sewage treatment plant. This monitoring programme shall:
 - (a) be based on the results of the measurement programme set out in Article 2(2) and, as regards the ECS2, also on the study referred to in Article 2(3);
 - (b) be carried out at least 4 times per year and while the plant is in operation. The frequency of the measurements shall be such as to capture the variability in concentrations of the substance and its principal degradation products in the wastewater due to changes or operational fluctuations in the process;
 - (c) be based on an analytical method capable of adequately characterising the substance and its principal degradation products in (waste)water with appropriately low limit of quantification;
 - (d) be recorded so as to include details of the sampling point, the analytical method, the concentrations detected and the corresponding environmental release values.
5. The authorisation holder shall use the information gathered in the measurements referred to in paragraph 4 and related contextual information to regularly review the appropriateness and effectiveness of the risk management measures and operational conditions and, if needed, to introduce measures to further reduce emissions of 4-tert-OPnEO to a level as low as technically and practically possible.
6. The authorisation holder shall document and keep the information obtained in accordance with paragraphs 2 to 5 and submit it, upon request, to the competent authority of the Member State where the authorised use takes place.

Article 3

1. The review period shall expire on 4 January 2033.
2. The authorisation shall cease to be valid on 4 January 2033 if the review report for those uses has not been submitted in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 by 4 July 2031.

Article 4

In the event that the authorisation holder submits a review report as referred to in Article 61(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006, it shall include the information obtained in accordance with Article 2(6).

Article 5

Upon request, the authorisation holder shall submit a brief summary of the applicable risk management measures and operational conditions described in the chemical safety report to

the competent authority of the Member State where the authorised use takes place in an official language of that Member State.

Article 6

This Decision is addressed to Novo Nordisk A/S, Novo Alle, 2880 Bagsværd, Denmark.

Done at Brussels, 9.11.2021

For the Commission
Thierry BRETON
Member of the Commission

