EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 25.3.2022
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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 25.3.2022

granting an authorisation under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council to Cytiva Sweden AB for a use of 4-Nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated

(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/EC[1], and in particular Article 64(8) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) 4-Nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated ('4-NPnEO') 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), point (a), of that Regulation.

(2) On 21 May 2019, GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB[2] ('the applicant') submitted an application in accordance with Article 62 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 for authorisation for a use of 4-NPnEO[3]. The use for which authorisation was sought is industrial use of emulsifiers containing nonylphenols ethoxylated for the manufacture of chromatography resins used by the biopharmaceutical industry, food & beverage sector and academia.

(3) On 1 July 2020, the Commission received the opinion on the application adopted by the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) and by the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) of the European Chemicals Agency[4] and sent to it pursuant to Article 64(5), second subparagraph, 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-NPnEO in accordance with Section 6.4 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 and that, therefore, 4-NPnEO is a substance for which it is not possible to determine a threshold for the purposes of Article 60(3), point (a), of that Regulation. As a result, Article 60(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 does not apply to that

1 OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1.

2 GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences AB subsequently changed its name to Cytiva Sweden AB.

3 Different names and abbreviations are currently used to refer to the substance, including 'NPE' in the chemical safety report.

4 https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/158cca00-63e0-e9c4-64bd-0f58b616fe42

substance and authorisations may therefore only be granted with respect to that substance under Article 60(4).

(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) In its opinion, RAC concluded that the risk management measures and operational conditions described in the application are not appropriate and effective to limit the risk to the environment. In particular, RAC pointed out that releases of 4-NPnEO from the applicant's on-site waste water treatment plant reach the municipal sewage treatment plant (STP) in the order of low tens of kilograms per year. Moreover, RAC noted that indirect releases of 4-NPnEO into soil by means of the use of the municipal STP sludge for agricultural purposes cannot be excluded. Therefore, RAC recommended conditions and a monitoring programme, with a view to reducing to a minimum releases into the environment and to ensuring the effectiveness of the risk management measures and operational conditions. In particular, RAC recommended that the applicant should ensure that all emissions of 4-NPnEO into the environment are subject to adequate treatment and the release into the municipal sewer system or to surface waters cannot be considered as adequate treatment. According to RAC, untreated releases of wastewater containing 4-NPnEO to the water compartment should be minimised by implementing additional risk management measures and operational conditions. Having evaluated the RAC assessment, the Commission agrees with its conclusion and recommendations.

(7) In its opinion, SEAC concluded 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 in the order of a few kilograms of the substance per year, the estimated quantitatively assessed benefits due to avoided profit loss and job loss in the order of tens of millions of euros over the entire review period, the estimated cost of avoiding the remaining releases of the substance, amounting to at least hundreds of thousands of euros per kilogram over the entire review period, the qualitatively assessed additional socio-economic benefits of the continued use of the substance that are due to avoided economic impacts on dozens of biopharmaceutical manufacturers, avoided impacts on patients caused by reduced availability of medicines and vaccines and avoided socio-economic impact caused by reduction of research and development investments, 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. An alternative that provides the functionality and level of technical performance necessary for the use applied for should be considered to be technically feasible.

(9) In its opinion, SEAC concluded that there are no suitable alternative substances or technologies available by the sunset date. The Commission, having evaluated SEAC's

assessment and all relevant information available, acknowledges that, for the time being, more research is still required to establish whether any of the shortlisted alternatives allows achieving the necessary solubility, droplet formation, emulsification efficiency or stabilisation of droplet particles required for the manufacture of biological active pharmaceutical ingredients. The Commission therefore considers that the identified alternatives do not allow the functionality needed for the use applied for. Therefore, the Commission agrees with that 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-NPnEO described in the application, provided that the risk management measures and operational conditions described in the chemical safety report, as well as the conditions laid down in this Decision, are fully applied. However, for the sake of legal clarity, the description of the use authorised by this Decision should be 'industrial use of emulsifiers containing 4-NPnEO for the manufacture of chromatography resins used by the biopharmaceutical industry, food and beverage sector and academia' in alignment with the name of the substance as referred to in this Decision.

(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 the existence of 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 request that additional exposure and emission information be submitted.

(12) In its opinion, SEAC recommended that the review period referred to in Article 60(9), point (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 RAC's and SEAC's assessments, and in particular, the time necessary for the development, implementation and validation of alternative substances, including the time necessary for their regulatory approval, as well as the high benefits of the continued use of the substance in terms of public health with continued provision of critical medicines and vaccines in the EU.

(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 to the substance 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/EC[5]. 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/EEC[6], 92/85/EEC[7], 94/33/EC[8] 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 emission limit values or other requirements set in accordance with Directive 2008/50/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[9] or Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council[10], 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 Council[11] or the environmental quality standards established in Directive 2008/105/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[12]. 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 under 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-Nonylphenol, branched and linear, ethoxylated (4-NPnEO):

Authorisation number	Authorised use
REACH/22/9/0	Industrial use of emulsifiers containing 4-NPnEO for the manufacture of chromatography

5 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).

6 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).

7 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).

8 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).

9 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).

10 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).

11 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).

12 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).

	resins used by the biopharmaceutical industry, food and beverage sector and academia

The authorisation is granted subject to the risk management measures and operational conditions described in the chemical safety report[13] as well as to the conditions laid down in Article 2.

Article 2

1. The authorisation shall be subject to the conditions set out in paragraphs 2 to 6.

2. The authorisation holder shall ensure that all emissions of 4-NPnEO into the environment are subject to adequate treatment with a view to reducing to a minimum releases into the environment. The relevant actions shall be documented and, upon request, made available to the competent authority of the Member State where the authorised use takes place.

3. The authorisation holder shall conduct a mass balance calculation of 4-NPnEO annually and duly document the results which shall include details of the calculations carried out, any assumptions made and the corresponding environmental release values. Upon request, the authorisation holder shall make available the results to the competent authority of the Member State where the authorised use takes place.

4. The authorisation holder shall undertake a monitoring programme of 4-NPnEO and of its principal degradation products in the waste water prior to its release to the off-site municipal sewage treatment plant. That monitoring programme shall be:

   (a) carried out at least 4 times per year and during the time of operation. The frequency of the measurements shall be such as to capture the variability in concentrations of the substance and of its principal degradation products in the wastewater due to changes or operational fluctuations in the process;

   (b) based on an analytical method capable of adequately characterising the substance and its principal degradation products in the waste water at an appropriately low limit of quantification;

   (c) recorded with 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 from the measurements referred to in paragraph 4 and related contextual information to regularly review, at least annually, the appropriateness and effectiveness of the risk management measures and operational conditions in place and, if needed, to introduce measures to further reduce emissions of 4-NPnEO to a level as low as technically and practically possible.

6. The authorisation holder shall document and keep the information obtained from the monitoring programme referred to in paragraph 4, including the contextual information associated with each set of measurements, as well as the outcome and conclusions of the review and any action taken in accordance with paragraph 5, and submit that information, upon request, to the competent authority of the Member State where the authorised use takes place.

[13] https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42124

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 has not been submitted in accordance with Article 61(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 by 4 July 2031.

Article 4

If 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 referred to in Article 2(2), the results of the calculations in accordance with Article 2(3) and the information referred to in Article 2(6) of this Decision.

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 Cytiva Sweden AB, Björkgatan 30, BA1-1, 75 184 Uppsala, Sweden.

Done at Brussels, 25.3.2022

For the Commission
Thierry BRETON
Member of the Commission