

26 September 2018

The Secretary  
Medicines & Poisons Scheduling  
Office of Chemical Safety  
GPO Box 9848  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [medicines.scheduling@health.gov.au](mailto:medicines.scheduling@health.gov.au); [chemicals.scheduling@health.gov.au](mailto:chemicals.scheduling@health.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam,


**Naphthalene - Details of proposed amendments referred for scheduling advice to the Joint ACMS-ACCS #20**

Chemistry Australia is the peak national body representing the chemistry industry in Australia. Chemistry Australia members include chemicals manufacturers, importers and distributors, logistics and supply chain partners, raw material suppliers, plastics fabricators and compounders, recyclers, and service providers to the sector and the chemistry and chemical engineering schools of a number of Australian universities.

Australia's entire society – businesses, consumers and governments – along with its natural environment receive enormous benefits associated with the safe, responsible and sustainable use of chemicals. To fulfil the optimal benefits of chemistry, balanced approaches are critical in stewarding effective chemical management.

Chemistry Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed amendments of Naphthalene to Schedule 7. However, Chemistry Australia is concerned that the proposal could impact other products, beyond mothball use, with the general inclusion of naphthalene in S7 and drive deselection in the marketplace of critical products.

The proposal to limit public exposure of naphthalene is centred around one type of use - mothballs. Chemistry Australia considers that if there is substantial evidentiary proof that there are concerns in relation to mothballs use with naphthalene in Australia, then a more restrictive application for that particular use may be warranted and only apply to that use. Therefore, to remove any unintended consequences, we recommend that the boundaries should be defined in a more specified manner to the S7 listing, if considered justified by the ACMS and ACCS.



Furthermore, we consider that current schedule 6 exception on hydrocarbon liquids for naphthalene could be further improved, as the term 'impurity' causes confusion to the reader. As we understand from the decision back in 2011<sup>1</sup>, there was no limit applied to naphthalene in terms of impurity to avoid unintended regulatory consequences when present in hydrocarbon liquids. We consider that the current wording applying impurity is confusing to the reader and we have received different interpretations within our membership. To understand the intent, one needs to go back through the archives to determine its application. What we have observed is that impurity is being used interchangeably with general quantity cut-off limits (10mg/kg) allocated for S6. Therefore, we strongly recommend correction the current exception to minimise the confusion.

Below are our suggested changes on the S7 inclusion (if warranted) and changes to S6;

Schedule 6

NAPHTHALENE (excluding its derivatives) **except:**

- A. when in liquid hydrocarbons ~~as an impurity~~; or
- B. when included in Schedule 7

Schedule 7 - New Entry

NAPHTHALENE in mothball use.

Chemistry Australia is committed to working with the committee on any further information requirements that may be required to support a balanced outcome. For more information or if we can assist this review any further, please don't hesitate to contact me on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**Nick Zovko**  
**Regulatory Policy Manager**  
**Chemistry Australia**

---

<sup>1</sup> Scheduling delegate's interim decisions and invitation for further comment: ACCS/ACMS, August 2011

