



Scientific Association of European Talc Industry A.I.S.B.L.  
Member of IMA-Europe

## EUROTALC Communication on IARC Monographs Volume 136 on talc

5 July 2024

On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024, the International Agency for Research on Cancer released an updated evaluation of the carcinogenicity of talc not containing asbestos or asbestiform fibres ([https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/pr352\\_E.pdf](https://www.iarc.who.int/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/pr352_E.pdf)) and concluded:

The Working Group of 29 international experts classified talc as **probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A)** on the basis of a combination of limited evidence for cancer in humans (for ovarian cancer), sufficient evidence for cancer in experimental animals, and strong mechanistic evidence that talc exhibits key characteristics of carcinogens in human primary cells and experimental systems.

As stated in the Preamble to the IARC Monographs, IARC evaluations can represent a first step in carcinogen risk assessment to be considered – when available – by national, international authorities carrying out their own assessments.

IARC evaluations do not trigger any amendment in EU legislation.

EUROTALC, representing the major EU producers of talc, would like to underline through this communication that the IARC conclusions detailed above do not impact the EU supply of talc, nor its current classification and labelling.

In parallel, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) is developing an opinion on an EU Harmonised Classification (CLH) of talc which should be finalised by Q4/2024. A STOT RE1 (lung, inhalation) and Carcinogen 2 classification is currently considered for talc. A CLH procedure typically takes about 2 years before the retained harmonised classification and labelling is published in EU law. Then a transition period of 18 months is usually agreed before the classification becomes mandatory.

We wish to reassure you that EUROTALC and its member companies are involved in all the regulatory procedures, providing comments from scientific experts in the field, and we will keep you informed.

We are always pleased to exchange any information and developments with our downstream users and other industry stakeholders and are at your disposal for any question.

EUROTALC, 5 July 2024