

EUROTALC Communication on ECHA Risk Assessment Committee's opinion proposing harmonised classification and labelling of talc

25 September 2024

EUROTALC is the talc industry's representative body for regulatory and scientific matters. It represents 95% of the European talc producers.

On 18 September 2024, the Risk Assessment Committee ("RAC") of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) adopted an opinion ("RAC opinion") on the EU harmonised classification of talc and recommended a classification as STOT RE 1, H372 (lungs, inhalation) and as a Presumed Carcinogen to humans of category 1B, H350 (May cause cancer).

It is now for the European Commission to analyse the RAC opinion, in liaison with the Member States, and to decide whether the proposed classification is appropriate, also taking into account all comments received.

The final decision on the harmonised classification of talc is expected by Q1 2026 and such final classification would be effective no sooner than 18 months after the final decision is published in the EU Official Journal. Pending such publication, there is no change to the current European regulatory provisions in relation to talc.

EUROTALC disagrees with the RAC opinion and asserts that the available evidence shows that talc does not meet the classification criteria for carcinogenicity.

We will continue expressing our views strongly to EU authorities and seek to demonstrate that the proposed classification for carcinogenicity is wrong and not appropriate. We will also continue exchanging any relevant information and developments with our downstream users and other stakeholders.

Yours sincerely,

Florence Lumen Secretary General