



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

EUROTALC Communication on IARC Monographs Volume 136 on talc July 2025

On 30 June 2025, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) released Volume 136 of the IARC Monographs on talc.

The IARC Working Group classified talc as probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A) on the basis of a combination of what was considered to represent (i) limited evidence for cancer in humans, (ii) sufficient evidence for cancer in experimental animals, and (iii) mechanistic evidence that talc exhibits key characteristics of carcinogens in human primary cells and experimental systems.

IARC evaluations do not trigger any amendment in EU legislation.

EUROTALC, representing the major EU producers of talc, underlines that the available data and scientific evidence on talc do not support the IARC's conclusions detailed above.

Furthermore, IARC significantly deviates from the approach followed, and conclusions reached, by the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in the context of the ongoing EU harmonized classification process. For example, IARC discarded as biased an important part of the human evidence, which is heavily relied upon by RAC. Also, unlike RAC, IARC relied on a specific type of animal evidence with highly questionable relevance for humans.

The IARC and RAC opinions diverge both as regards the interpretation of the available scientific data, and the related conclusions. This further demonstrates that neither can support the classification of talc as carcinogen based on strong and reliable science. The weight of evidence continues to suggest that talc does not cause cancer.

EUROTALC does not expect that the IARC evaluation would impact the EU supply of talc and/or on the EU regulatory status of the substance. This is even more unlikely in light of the misalignment between IARC and RAC on the relevance, quality and interpretation of the available scientific data.

We wish to reassure you that EUROTALC and its member companies are actively involved in all the ongoing EU regulatory procedures targeting talc, and are preparing and providing solid scientific comments from highly regarded experts in the field. These are also taking into account the evaluation of IARC. We will keep you informed of relevant future developments.

We remain available to exchange any information on these developments with our downstream users and other industry stakeholders, and we are at your disposal for any question.

EUROTALC, July 2025

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