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Subject: Microplastic Public Consultation

Dear Ms Grove, Ms Raghuram and Mr Vattani

Thank you for your email and letter of 29 July 2019 and apologies for the delay in replying.

The restriction proposal by ECHA (The Dossier Submitter) on microplastics was submitted on 19 January 2019 and is currently being evaluated in ECHA's committees. The public consultation on the proposal started on 20 March 2019.

The proposal defines microplastics as 'a material consisting of solid polymer-containing particles, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and where $\geq 1\%$ w/w of particles have (i) all dimensions $1\text{nm} \leq x \leq 5\text{mm}$, or (ii), for fibres, a length of $3\text{nm} \leq x \leq 15\text{mm}$ and length to diameter ratio of >3 '.

In Annex D to the proposal, certain polymers and their functions have been included in Table 44 (List of polymers in Low scenario (19-polymer scope)). The text in Annex D5 specifies that the the polymers in table 44 were used by the Dossier Submitter as an assumption in the calculation of the lower bound impacts of the scope of the proposed restriction in terms of polymer particles impacted (D.5.1. Use and functions). However, we recognise the table in isolation does not refer to the microplastics definition in relation to the polymers listed. We have therefore included a footnote, in the current version of the Annex XV restriction dossier on our website and the Background document¹ to the opinions being discussed in the Committees, to clarify this. The footnote reads 'Not all uses of the polymers included in this list may meet the proposed microplastic definition.' The new version of the Annex XV restriction dossier should be published shortly.

¹ This is the restriction proposal (Annex XV restriction dossier) updated to take into account the recommendations of the Committees and information submitted in the Public Consultation.

Therefore taking all the issues into account, I do not see the need to produce any further public statement on this issue. I trust this letter can be provided if any enquiries are made to you.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Blainey
Head of Unit
Risk Management Unit I