CEPE Information Note for EU Powder Coatings Manucturers
Powder Coatings and the REACH Restriction on Microplastics

The adoption of REACH restriction 2023/2055/EC on synthetic polymer microparticles (SPM) has brought new legal obligations for Powder Coatings users in Europe (EU PC users). The intention of this paper is to describe what these legal obligations are, how end-users can comply to them and by when the implementation is expected.

All the EU PC users are in scope of the restriction. There are some common characteristics in the PC business that is worth highlighting in this context. First, all the end-users are industrial downstream users. There are no products for consumers or professional use. Second, all powders coatings are 100 % in scope of the restriction. Finally, the powder coatings are applied and cured and are no longer SPM.

Since the users are not suppliers of SPM's, there are no obligations to provide information further down the supply chain; **only the end-users have to report annually** to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on their releases of SPM to the environment.

This document is written with the knowledge we have on August 2026.

What are the new legal obligations?

As from 2027, before May 31st of the year, you need to provide annually to ECHA the following information on your application process:

- A description of the uses in the calendar year before.
- For each use, generic identity of the polymers used.
- For each use, an estimation of the amount of SPM released to the environment during the past year and an estimation of the quantity of releases during transport.
- For each use, a reference to the derogations laid down in paragraph 4a.
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How can end-users comply with these obligations?

Obligation 1. The recommendation is to report one use only:
''Application of powder coatings to a variety of substrate, followed by high temperature curing''
Obligation 2. Since this information needs to be provided for each use and since there is just one use only, the proposal is to sum up all the technologies mentioned in the Technical Data Sheets (TDS):
"Mixtures of epoxy, polyester, polyacrylate and polyurethane polymers".
Obligation 3 End-users may use the Application SpERCs (Specific Environmental Release Category) developed by CEPE.
If the end-user has better data on releases to air, these should be reported.
Obligation 4: Refer to the derogation: 4 (a).

CEPE has developed a Calculation Tool to estimate SPM emissions to the environment during end use. As a courtesy to their industrial customers who have to report their own emissions, the tool also contains a worksheet 'Calculation End Use Industrial' based on CEPE SpERCS (Specific Environmental Release Categories) for industrial application. Powder Coatings end-users can use this sheet to estimate the SPM emissions from their own industrial sites.

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