



Brussels, 27 October 2025

Use of a pictogram to communicate IFUD for the Reach Microplastic Restriction

Background

Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2055, also known as the REACH Microplastic Restriction, requires suppliers of synthetic polymer particles to provide instructions for use and disposal (IFUD) explaining how to prevent releases of synthetic polymer microparticles to the environment.

For industrial users, this can be included in the SDS but for professional users and the general public, this information must go on the label, packaging or packaging leaflet. With small packaging, and in many cases limited space left on the label, this can be a challenge.

In the regulation it is foreseen that for professional users and the general public, IFUD can be provided in the form of (a) pictogram(s). Due to the size of their packaging and labels, suppliers of paints and coatings may choose to use a pictogram. A well-chosen pictogram has also the advantage that it does not require translation.

Release of SPM from paint and coating use

Paints and coatings have no deliberate release to the environment. Their intended use is to be applied on a substrate where they dry and form a film. SPM that are part of the paint or coating, either as film-forming binder or intentionally added, become permanently enclosed in the film (solid matrix) at which point they no longer fulfil the definition of an SPM according to the Reach Restriction.

Unintentional release of paint and coating to soil (spills) or air (spray and droplets) will settle and also result in the formation of a solid matrix into which the SPM gets permanently imbedded.

For waterborne products, residual release of free SPM may potentially occur when cleaning equipment or packaging with water. For

industrial uses this is well controlled by the industrial wastewater treatment processes and environmental permits. For the general public, release would occur when cleaning painting equipment like brushes and rollers under the tap and letting the dirty water go down the drain.

Proposed IFUD

Based on before mentioned analyses of routes of release, reduction of SPM emission can be achieved by encouraging changes in the behaviour of the cleaning practices.

This can be achieved by following proposed pictogram:



Position Statement



This pictogram should encourage users to not dispose of paint or rinse painting tools in sinks or drains.

Alternatively, the phrase 'Do not dispose of paint or rinse painting tools in sinks or drains' could be used.

Additionally, for products that require a CLP label, the pictograms could be accompanied with P501 Dispose of contents/container to ... (to be completed with the appropriate waste disposal measures in compliance with local regulations).

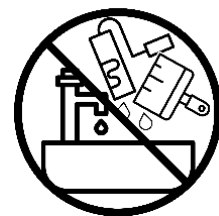
While this proposed pictogram covers the majority of cases for CEPE members, everyone

should individually assess if the pictogram is appropriate and sufficient for their products. E.g. a different symbol (e.g. a spraying tool for products designed for spray application) may be more appropriate in specific cases.

Also, the need of a pictogram should be assessed in conjunction with information about use and disposal that is already commonly provided for paints and coatings. Existing information may cover already aspects of use and disposal that reduce the emission of SPM to the environment. If that is the case, i.e. the existing information already covers the IFUD, there is no need to add further information.

Summary

CEPE recommends this pictogram to remind users not to dispose of paint and clean painting tools in sinks or drains. This visual aims to promote responsible use and disposal, thereby also minimizing the release of SPM to the environment, and ensure compliance with the IFUD information requirement under the Reach Microplastic restriction.



Annex 1 Translation of the phrase

BG Не изхвърляйте боя или инструменти за боядисване в мивки или канали
ES No deseche pintura ni enjuague útiles de pintura en el fregadero o desagüe.
DK Undlad at skylle malerværktøj i håndvasken og hæld ikke maling i afløbet
DE Entsorgen Sie keine Farbreste in die Kanalisation und waschen Sie keine Malerwerkzeuge in Waschbecken oder Abflüssen aus.
ET Ärge visake värvi ära ega loputage värvimistööriistu kraanikaussides või äravoolus.

EL Μην απορρίπτετε το χρώμα ούτε να ξεπλένετε τα εργαλεία βαφής σε νεροχύτες ή αποχετεύσεις
EN Do not dispose of paint or rinse painting tools in sinks or drains.
FR Ne pas jeter de peinture dans les canalisations, ne pas rincer les outils de peinture dans les éviers.
IT Non smaltire pitture e vernici né risciacquare gli strumenti di verniciatura negli scarichi domestici o nelle fognature.
HU Ne öntse a festékmaradékot és a festőeszközök mosófolyadékát a mosdókagylóba vagy lefolyóba!

MT Tarmix żebgħa w taħsilx il-pniezel fis-sink jew fid-drenaġġ.
NL Spoel verf niet door de gootsteen, ook niet bij het reinigen van verfgereedschap.
PL Nie usuwać farby i pozostałości po myciu narzędzi malarskich do zlewów i kanalizacji
PT Não despeje produto pela canalização, inclusive ao limpar ferramentas de aplicação.
FI Älä pese maalaustyökaluja hanan alla. Älä kaada pesunesteitä tai maalia viemäriin
SV Häll inte färg i avloppet, tvätta inte verktyg under kranen