



Mandate requesting ECHA opinions under Article 75(1)(g) of the BPR

"Opinion on sodium chloride specifications and water quality for active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis"

1. Background

- (1) The ECHA BPC opinions of 25 April 2018 on active chlorine generated from sodium chloride by electrolysis¹ proposed to establish the specifications for the precursor sodium chloride according to the specification of the European Pharmacopeia 9.0. The opinion also proposed that the water used for the generation of active chlorine from sodium chloride should be highly purified.
- (2) During the last few months, several industry associations have alerted SANTE E.4 that these conditions would severely restrict the possibilities for applicants to become authorisation holders of water treatment equipment as currently no market actor complies with them. Should it be the case, many swimming pool and drinking water facilities would fail to meet the BPR requirements.
- (3) Earlier this year, ECHA received additional information from several stakeholder associations concerned by this issue.
- (4) Taking into consideration the feedback from stakeholders, the European Commission asks ECHA to address the following questions.

2. The questions referred to ECHA

- (5) Does the information provided by industry give reasons for ECHA to reconsider the specifications proposed for sodium chloride in the earlier BPC opinions? If considered necessary, could ECHA indicate in their opinion what should be the specifications for sodium chloride to ensure a high level of protection of health and the environment?
- (6) Does the information provided by industry give reasons for ECHA to reconsider the specifications proposed for the quality of water used for the brine solution? If considered necessary, could ECHA indicate in their opinion what should be the minimum quality for the water used for the brine solution to ensure a high level of protection of health and the environment?

¹ Opinions ECHA/BPC/194/2018, ECHA/BPC/195/2018, ECHA/BPC/196/2018, ECHA/BPC/197/2018, ECHA/BPC/198/2018

3. Elements to be considered by ECHA when addressing this question

- (7) ECHA shall use any available information and in particular, the recent information provided by relevant industry associations and companies active in the sector of treatment of water such as Aqua Europa, Aqualution and EU Salt. ECHA may also conduct a targeted consultation if appropriate.

4. Deadline for the ECHA opinions

- (8) ECHA shall adopt opinions on this request no later than 9 months after receiving this mandate.