

Public consultation on harmonised classification and labelling of boric acid and various borates

ECHA is looking for comments on the harmonised classification and labelling proposals for boric acid and various borates as follows:

Boric acid and various borates (see table below). Boric acid and borates are industrial chemicals used as intermediates for the production of other chemicals or as substances in the manufacture of e.g. glasses, metals, cements, lubricants, greases, inks and cleaning products. Some borates are also active substances in biocidal products as antimicrobials and wood preservative agents. Boric acid and various borates have an existing harmonised classification and labelling in Annex VI of CLP as toxic to reproduction (Repr. 1B, H360FD) and specific concentration limits (SCLs) to classify substances and mixtures varying from 3.1% to 8.5% w/w. The toxicological properties of boric acid and borates are similar due to their common boron moiety. Existing SCLs to classify substances and mixtures were set based on the developmental effects of the boron moiety using an approach proposed by BauA (1998) which took into account substance-specific boron contents. According to the revised Guidance on the Application of CLP Criteria (Version 5.0 – July 2017, section 3.7.2.6.), existing SCLs for boric acid and borates should be replaced by a common generic concentration limit (GCL) of 0.3% w/w that applies to the medium potency group of reproductive toxicants. This would trigger the classification and labelling as toxic to reproduction (Repr. 1B, H360FD) for substances and mixtures containing equal or more than 0.3% w/w of these substances. Comments are invited on the proposal to remove SCLs and to harmonise a GCL of 0.3% w/w for boric acid and borates.

The deadline for comments is **22 February 2019, 23:59 Helsinki time (EET)**.

Index No	International Chemical Identification	EC No	CAS No
005-007-00-2	boric acid; [1] boric acid; [2]	233-139-2 [1] 234-343-4 [2]	10043-35-3 [1] 11113-50-1 [2]
005-008-00-8	diboron trioxide; boric oxide	215-125-8	1303-86-2
005-011-00-4	disodium tetraborate, anhydrous; boric acid, disodium salt; [1] tetraboron disodium heptaoxide, hydrate; [2] orthoboric acid, sodium salt [3]	215-540-4 [1] 235-541-3 [2] 237-560-2 [3]	1330-43-4 [1] 12267-73-1 [2] 13840-56-7 [3]
005-011-01-1	disodium tetraborate decahydrate; borax decahydrate	215-540-4	1303-96-4
005-011-02-9	disodium tetraborate pentahydrate; borax pentahydrate	215-540-4	12179-04-3