



## Customer Information

# Classification of titanium dioxide as suspected of causing cancer by inhalation

On October 4, 2019, the European Commission decided to classify titanium dioxide as a suspected carcinogen (cat 2.) by inhalation. This classification only applies to titanium dioxide in its pure powder form and solid mixtures containing 1% or more of the substance. It does not apply to dried printing ink films.

On February 18, 2020, this Commission decision on the classification of titanium dioxide was published in the Official Journal of the European Union ((EU) 2020/217) as part of the 14<sup>th</sup> ATP to the CLP Regulation.

After the expiry of an 18-month transition period, i.e. by **October 1, 2021**, at the latest, the classification had to be implemented by the entire supply chain. This was implemented by Siegwerk within this time period.

For printing inks containing titanium dioxide the following **warning statement** is required on labels:

*EUH211: 'Warning! Hazardous respirable droplets may be formed when sprayed. Do not breathe spray or mist.'*

This warning statement is mandatory regardless of whether a liquid mixture is suitable for spray applications or not. It is therefore shown on relevant Siegwerk product labels, but is of limited relevance in practice. Inhalation exposure due to potential ink misting on high-speed printing machines does not raise concerns under typical printing conditions.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, titanium dioxide particles are firmly embedded in the binder matrix and, as such, cannot be inhaled.

It should also be noted that mixtures carrying exclusively warning statement EUH211 are still considered non-hazardous.

A possible titanium dioxide content is also irrelevant for the waste classification, it does not lead to the need to make a hazardous waste declaration.

Siegwerk continues to share the conviction of the German Paint and Printing Ink Industry Association (VdL), the European Council of the Paint, Printing Inks and Artists' Colours Industry (CEPE) and the Titanium Dioxide Manufacturers Association (TDMA): **the use of titanium dioxide is safe in paints, coatings and printing inks.**

More information is available at [www.tdma.info](http://www.tdma.info) (in English) and [www.forum-titandioxid.de](http://www.forum-titandioxid.de) (in German).

The information in this document reflects Siegwerk's policy and commitments. This statement is valid without signature.

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<sup>1</sup> German Social Accident Insurance Institution for the energy, textile, electrical and media products sectors (BG ETEM): Impact of re-classification of titanium dioxide, March 2020 (in German)