O6. WHEN PIGMENTS BECOME FORBIDDEN - PIGMENT BLUE 15

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The pigment the - colorful unknown. Everybody believes to know what pigments are. Compared to a lot of other chemical compounds, pigments are solid state matter and should not dissolve in the area where they are used. In addition to that particles are not uniform in size and the shape may also differ. And as all particles they adsorb other chemicals on their surface, arising from raw materials or from by-products of the chemical synthesis. So what is the meaning of a Color Index e.g. PB 15? It tells you the color area and the basic chemical structure and that is all. No further information on particle sizes and distribution or on impurities. However, these are properties which can significantly impact toxicity and eco toxicity.

PB 15 is a well-known pigment already introduced in 1935 and very well investigated in both vitro and vivo studies. A complete REACH level 1 evaluation dossier is available. Therefore experimental toxicity data are available on the acute, subchronic and chronic toxicity, on skin sensitization, on the genotoxicity, reproductive toxicity, developmental toxicity and on the carcinogenicity. All toxicological endpoints investigated resulted in the conclusion that CuPC does not pose a health hazard. CuPC is not classified.

Based on these findings which show that the pigment itself does not pose a risk to human health, more focus should be drawn to impurities and other additives which come together with the pigment.