



## The safe use of roofing products containing diisocyanates

**The use of polyurethane (PU) products containing diisocyanates is widespread across the roofing sector, including liquid coatings, adhesives, and sealants. Diisocyanates are known skin irritants and sensitisers, eye irritants and respiratory sensitisers, which is why new REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals) labelling and training regulations are to be introduced to enhance the safety measures for users. Labelling regulations were implemented in February 2022, and training regulations are to be implemented by August 2023.**

The purpose of the new regulations is to target the unsafe handling of diisocyanates, and promote good practices whilst handling. This strategy allows adhesives and sealants containing diisocyanates to remain widely available across the industry. It is aimed at industrial and professional use and does not impact the DIY market.

### Are diisocyanates safe?

Like that of any other substances, use of diisocyanates is safe when chemicals are handled according to, firstly, the manufacturers data sheets, then secondly, via the risk management and safety measures set out within the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health 2002 (COSHH). COSHH is the regulation that requires employers to control the exposure of their employees to substances that are hazardous to their health. You can prevent or reduce an operatives' exposure to hazardous substances by:

- **Finding out what the health hazards are**
- **Deciding how to prevent harm to health (*risk assessment*)**
- **Providing control measures to reduce harm to health**
- **Providing information, instruction and training for employees and others**
- **Providing monitoring and health surveillance in appropriate cases**
- **Planning for emergencies.**

It is also important to stress that virtually no diisocyanates can be found post application. Diisocyanates are only used as reactive chemicals—they react with the polyol to form the final PU product and are consumed during this reaction.

### Labelling, safety data sheets and training requirements

Products sold within the EU and UK, with a total monomeric diisocyanate concentration greater than 0.1 per cent, intended for professional or industrial use, must have the statement below on the product container label:

***'As from 24 August 2023, adequate training is required before industrial or professional use'***

This has been in place since 24 February 2022. This sentence should be visibly distinct from the rest of the label information and your operatives will need to be trained in how to handle and apply products containing diisocyanates safely before 24 August 2023.

### E-learning

Fédération Européenne des Industries de Colles et Adhésifs (FEICA), in coordination with the European Diisocyanate & Polyol Producers Association (ISOPA), the European Aliphatic Isocyanates Producer Association (ALIPA), and several other industries in the polyurethane (PU) industry, launched a comprehensive training programme to ensure the safe use of diisocyanates for producers and professional users all over Europe. . The PU Training Platform, available in six languages, can be accessed via [www.safeusediisocyanates.eu](http://www.safeusediisocyanates.eu). The training module is currently available in English, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Dutch.

The training material is related to PU adhesives and sealant applications in the construction sector, and with the FEICA voucher code **FEICA\_21\_G**, the training is free of charge for end-users. The training material is related to PU adhesives and sealant applications in the construction sector, and if you successfully pass the test at the end of the training module, a certificate will be issued to show successful completion of the training.

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