

## Nitric acid

### Self-classification and impacts

7 December 2016

#### 1. New self-classification of nitric acid

Based on new data available<sup>1</sup>, nitric acid is self-classified for acute toxicity by inhalation in category 3. This self-classification is included in the updated REACH registration dossier and will need to be included in the updated Safety Data Sheets and other communication to downstream users and customers.

#### 2. Self-classification of nitric acid diluted solutions

According to the calculation rules outlined in the CLP Regulation ([Regulation \(EC\) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures](#)), this will be the resulting classification for nitric acid and its aqueous solutions:

<b>Nitric acid concentration</b>	<b>Classification category</b>
<=13%	No classification
>13% - <=26%	Acute tox. cat. 4
>26% - <=100%	Acute tox. cat. 3

For mixtures containing nitric acid and other substances, calculation also needs to take into account the hazard profile from the other components and/or impurities present in the mixture as per the rules of the CLP Regulation.

The classification of the diluted nitric acid solutions is not included in the registration dossier. These need to be given in the SDS, on the label and as part of other communication to downstream users and customers.

#### 3. Impacts

The updated self-classification for nitric acid and diluted solutions will have an impact on the storage of nitric acid due to the **Seveso Directive** ([Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC Text with EEA relevance](#)):

<b>Hazard category</b>	<b>Lower-tier</b>	<b>Upper-tier</b>
H2 Acute Toxic Cat. 3, inhalation exposure	50 tons	200 tons

Being a Seveso establishment implies that, among others, there is a need for:

- (i) an assessment of major-accident hazards which includes an assessment of health, physical and environmental hazards,
- (ii) a major accident prevention policy document,
- (iii) safety reports (upper-tier),
- (iv) emergency plans (upper-tier) and
- (v) informing persons likely to be affected by a major accident (upper-tier).

With regards to Seveso Directive, more restrictive country specific provisions may be in place (e.g, France), co-registrants and downstream users are invited to check the relevant national regulations.

Currently there are no changes under the **regulations for the transport of dangerous goods**.

<sup>1</sup> BASF SE (2015). Nitric acid 70% - Acute inhalation toxicity study in Wistar rats 4-hour vapor exposure (nose only). Testing laboratory: BASF SE Experimental Toxicology and Ecology 67056 Ludwigshafen, Germany. Owner company: BASF SE. Study number: 1310234/131464. Report date: 2015-06-29.