

Press Release

ASASP welcomes UK HSE decision to seek further review of evidence before any classification of SAS

ASASP, a sector group of Cefic, welcomes the UK Health and Safety Executive's (HSE) decision to seek further review of the available evidence before considering any classification of Synthetic Amorphous Silica (SAS). This approach recognises the need for a complete and balanced evaluation of the scientific data before regulatory conclusions are drawn.

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) published an Agency Technical Report in April 2026 under Article 37 of the GB CLP Regulation concerning the classification and labelling of Synthetic Amorphous Silica (SAS), covering fumed/pyrogenic silica and precipitated forms such as silica gel and colloidal amorphous silica (nano and non nano forms).

UK HSE assessment

In its assessment, UK HSE concludes that a classification for specific target organ toxicity following repeated exposure (STOT RE) cannot be concluded at this stage and that further targeted assessment is required before any mandatory classification decision can be taken.

Contrast with RAC

This conclusion differs from the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC), which proposed classification of SAS as STOT RE 1; H372 (respiratory tract, inhalation). UK HSE explicitly notes that the RAC Opinion did not consider all available scientific information and that additional evidence exists which warrants further evaluation.

Next steps

On this basis, UK HSE has decided not to propose a STOT RE classification at present and has indicated that SAS will instead be assessed for STOT RE under a targeted Article 37A mandatory classification and labelling (MCL) proposal, allowing a comprehensive assessment of the full data set.

ASASP considers that the approach outlined by UK HSE provides an appropriate framework to address remaining scientific uncertainties and stands ready to engage constructively in the forthcoming assessment process, as appropriate.

For more information please contact:

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About ASASP

The Association of Synthetic Amorphous Silica Producers is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and represents the major producers of synthetic amorphous silica (SAS) in Europe. ASASP is a non-profit organisation established in 1992 dedicated to promoting the safe use and benefits of SAS to society. The health and safety of employees, consumers and the wider community are of the upmost importance to ASASP members. ASASP continues to be convinced that based on the available information, the use of SAS in consumer products is considered safe.

