



## USA Risk Characterization Summary

As a member of the American Chemistry Council (ACC) in the USA, AkzoNobel is committed to an international program, the Global Product Strategy (GPS), which is designed to improve product stewardship actions and to increase public awareness and confidence that chemicals in commerce are safely managed throughout their lifecycle. An important part of the AkzoNobel GPS program is completing risk characterizations for the chemicals it manufactures and imports, prioritizing chemical risks, recommending risk management actions where indicated, and making chemical health and safety information available to the public. [NOTE: The AkzoNobel GPS includes a number of product regulatory compliance programs (e.g., product safety for Material Safety Data Sheets and labels) that have been effectively functioning for many years.]

The AN Risk Characterization process in the USA is a team effort within the company. We: (1) collect available health and safety information on the chemicals we manufacture and import, (2) evaluate the chemical/physical, human health and environmental hazards presented by our chemicals, (3) assess the human and environmental exposure to our chemicals, including customer use and disposal when this information is available, (4) assess the potential risks of potential harm to human health and the environment, and, (5) prioritize our chemicals according to the level of risk so that additional risk reduction actions can be recommended as needed.

One of the primary objectives of the AN Risk Characterization process is to identify those chemicals that present the highest risk and then to focus on ensuring that these chemicals are carefully managed to control these risks. AkzoNobel reviews the type and degree of hazard in view of the chemical use as well as customer practices to decide whether a chemical should be considered a high priority chemical. Generally, AkzoNobel uses the following factors in deciding whether a chemical should be considered a high priority: (1) *a high hazard potential* (acute or chronic), (2) *a high exposure potential* with respect to number of pounds manufactured or imported, or due to the type of customer application/use, or (3) *a combination of these two factors*.

When a chemical has been identified as a high priority chemical, AkzoNobel will make publicly available a product stewardship summary for the chemical that generally presents the hazards, exposures, risks and recommended risk management actions that should be taken. After the evaluation of high priority chemicals has been completed, AkzoNobel will address medium and low risk chemicals in the same type of process.