



# Position Statement

**AkzoNobel**  
Tomorrow's Answers Today

## Substitution of Hazardous Materials

AkzoNobel's approach on the use of substances that are considered to be hazardous in its products is subject to a number of driving forces: among them, concern for man and the environment, available technology, legislation and regulations, market forces, product specifications, availability of alternatives and customer acceptance. AkzoNobel strives to find a responsible balance among these forces.

AkzoNobel only offers products that comply with applicable legislation and regulations. Moreover, AkzoNobel actively supports the guiding principles of the Responsible Care® program of the Chemicals industry and the Coatings Care® program of the Paint and Printing Ink Industry, both of which commit member companies to improving the management of health, safety and environmental aspects of their products. Through these programs, AkzoNobel has incorporated processes into its management systems that regularly review the use of substances considered to be hazardous.

As part of the Responsible Care® and Coatings Care® programs, AkzoNobel businesses have embraced the concept of Product Stewardship, which commits them to manage in a responsible and ethical manner each of their products throughout its total life cycle. This means that the raw materials used in our products are evaluated on a regular basis.

AkzoNobel strives to minimize exposure to hazardous substances. If complete substitution of a substance is not feasible, the risk in using the product is fully evaluated. Only when the risk is considered acceptable will the product be supplied. In new products, AkzoNobel avoids where at all possible using substances that are known to be highly carcinogenic, mutagenic and repro-toxic for humans (e.g. EU Category 1 substances).

AkzoNobel as a global company maintains a single set of global standards for its raw materials and products: in many cases our standards are stricter than local legislation. We are committed to harmonize local standards of our products with our global standards, but we do accept that this cannot always be achieved in the short term and that we may need some time to achieve this.

An Overview of AkzoNobel's Production and Use of Chemical Substances of Concern can be found on our website.