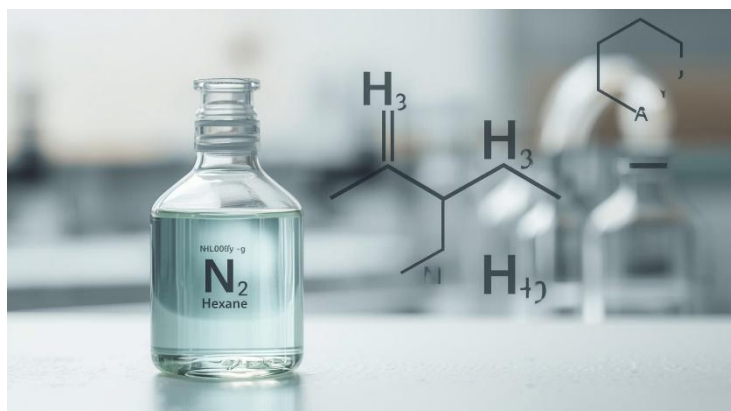


SVHC consultation on n-hexane: Critical implications for downstream users



On 1 September 2025, ECHA opened the public consultation on the inclusion of **n-hexane (EC 203-777-6)** in the candidate list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). This represents the validation of **Step 1 toward a potential REACH Authorisation** of n-hexane — a development with significant consequences for downstream users of the substance across the European value chain.

The **Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA)** has issued a call to action to all stakeholder associations, urging active participation in the consultation to ensure that regulators fully appreciate the broad industrial and societal impacts of such a decision.

What is at stake?

N-hexane is a key component in many hydrocarbon solvent blends. Its potential listing as an SVHC would trigger new obligations for manufacturers and downstream users, including:

- Responding to consumer requests for information within 45 days.
- Notifying ECHA if articles contain n-hexane above 0.1% (w/w).
- Preparing for potential future REACH Authorisation requirements.

HSPA stresses that the proposal's focus, based on a **Risk Management Option Analysis (RMOA) by Germany** and dossier work by **Slovenia** (Annex XV), is on **consumer uses**. However, the implications reach far wider, affecting professional and industrial applications such as coatings, cleaning, adhesives and oil extraction.

Indirect impacts through n-hexane-containing substances

The consultation not only concerns pure n-hexane (EC 203-777-6) but also numerous **n-hexane-containing substances** with their own EC numbers (including 931-254-9, 925-292-5, 926-605-8, 930-397-4, 922-114-8, 924-168-8, 921-024-6 and 701-352-4).

Any product or mixture containing these substances above 0.1% w/w may be caught by new REACH requirements if the SVHC status is confirmed. HSPA warns that beyond regulatory obligations, **market**

deselection could occur, as customers often reject SVHC-containing products regardless of legal compliance due to the negative connotation of such listings.

Timeline and next steps

- **16 October 2025** – Deadline for commenting in the public consultation on n-hexane via the [ECHA website: Substances of very high concern identification](#).
- **8–12 December 2025** – Anticipated discussion in the ECHA Member State Committee.



The Hydrocarbon Solvents Consortium (HCSC), working with HSPA, is addressing the dossier but emphasises the need for input from downstream associations to document real-world impacts.

What Afera Members should know

For the adhesive tapes industry, the issue is especially relevant as n-hexane may appear in cleaning or processing solvents, or in raw materials supplied within the chain. Even if not a primary feedstock for tapes, the **classification of n-hexane as an SVHC could create indirect burdens**, tightening supply options, generating information obligations and potentially prompting customers to seek alternatives.

Afera encourages Members to consider the potential consequences within their operations and supply chains and to engage with HSPA's consultation process where relevant.

Feedback can be shared directly with HSPA at: nha@cefic.be and pgo@cefic.be.

About HSPA

The **Hydrocarbon Solvents Producers Association (HSPA)** is a sector group of Cefic representing producers of hydrocarbon solvents in Europe. More information is available at www.esig.org.