

n-Hexane SVHC listing: What solvent-based tapes must do

Ahead of the 18–19 March RAWG, Technical Committee and Steering Committee meetings, this update highlights when article thresholds and notification triggers may apply.



ECHA has added n-hexane (EC 203-777-6; CAS 110-54-3) to the REACH Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHC), based on concerns relating to specific target organ toxicity after repeated exposure (human health).

For the European adhesive tapes industry, the impact is not only indirect. It could be significant for commodity tapes manufactured using n-hexane as a solvent, where n-hexane remains in the finished tape at amounts above 0.1% w/w. In that situation, the tape itself can trigger REACH duties for articles, including potential notification to ECHA.

This topic will be discussed at the Regulatory Affairs Working Group, Technical Committee and Steering Committee Meetings on 18–19 March in Amsterdam.

Why this is directly relevant to the adhesive tapes supply chain

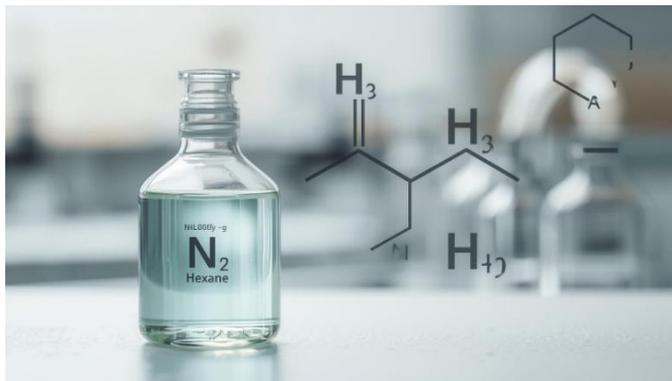
There are two distinct exposure pathways for the sector:

1) Direct impact for certain solvent-based commodity tapes

Where n-hexane is used as a process solvent and remains in the finished tape above **0.1% w/w**, the tape may fall into the “SVHC in articles” framework. This moves the issue from “supplier declarations” to concrete compliance duties and potential reporting.

2) Indirect impact across broader tape supply chains

Even where tapes are not manufactured with n-hexane, the substance can appear in cleaning agents, processing aids, or hydrocarbon solvent blends used upstream or on site. Candidate List status tends to accelerate customer scrutiny and substitution expectations across multiple tiers of the supply chain.



What changes now that n-hexane is on the Candidate List

Candidate List inclusion does not automatically ban n-hexane, but it changes day-to-day reality in three ways:

Compliance triggers become real for affected tapes

If residual n-hexane in a tape exceeds **0.1% w/w**, article-related obligations can apply, including communication duties and, in certain cases, notification to ECHA.

Commercial pressure typically moves faster than regulation

Many customers treat “SVHC” as a deselection trigger. If your tapes are used in high-volume or price-sensitive segments, the combination of compliance costs and customer requirements can become material quickly.

Notifications can shape future regulation

ECHA’s guidance explains that notification information may be used to identify a need for further regulatory risk management under REACH (including authorisation and restriction) or other EU legislation. Non-confidential information in notifications may also be made publicly available on ECHA’s website.

What tape companies using n-hexane should know

If n-hexane remains in the tape, the critical concentration threshold is **0.1% w/w**. From there, the key question is whether an ECHA notification obligation is triggered.

An actor must notify ECHA if:

- **n-hexane is present at >0.1% w/w** in any articles produced
- the **total amount of n-hexane** in all articles produced that contain more than 0.1% w/w is **more than 1 tonne per year**

ECHA’s guidance on substances in articles (Chapter 3) provides more detail, including **possible exceptions** (Section 3.3). ECHA also provides a practical manual on how to prepare and submit an article notification.

In parallel, companies should expect customers to ask for clear, consistent statements on whether n-hexane is present above the threshold in finished tapes, and how this has been determined.

What tape companies should do now

1. **Identify the tape lines where residual n-hexane is plausible**
Prioritise solvent-based commodity tapes where n-hexane is used in manufacture. Do not assume residual levels are negligible. Consider process conditions, drying and curing, and any variability across plants and product grades.
2. **Quantify residual levels and document the basis**
Where the risk is plausible, establish a defensible position using process knowledge, supplier data, and targeted analytical verification where needed. If residual levels can exceed **0.1% w/w**, quantify volumes and calculate whether the **1 tonne per year** trigger could be met across all relevant articles.
3. **Prepare for notification and supply-chain communication**
If thresholds are met, prepare the documentation needed to notify ECHA, and align internally on who owns the process. Separately, prepare customer-facing messaging that is consistent across regulatory, sales and technical teams, since customer requirements often tighten quickly once “SVHC” is flagged.

Afera will continue monitoring this topic closely and will use the **18–19 March 2026** meetings to consolidate Member input, clarify practical questions (including on residual solvent testing and notification thresholds), and agree any next steps for industry co-ordination.

Further information

- [ECHA Candidate List news release \(4 February\)](#)
- [ECHA Guidance on requirements for substances in articles \(Chapter 3 and Section 3.3\)](#)
- [ECHA manual on preparing an article notification](#)
- [SVHC consultation on n-hexane: Critical implications for downstream users](#) (recent Afera article).
