

## **No classification for SiC products (CAS 409-21-2)**

Since March 2022, silicon carbide (SiC) **fibres** have a harmonized classification under the CLP Regulation. SiC fibres and cleavage fragments which fall within the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of a 'fibre' are classified as carcinogenic 1B. The WHO defines 'fibres' as particles with a length of >5µm, a diameter of <3µm and an aspect ratio (length/diameter) of >3:1.

**This new classification does not concern SiC crude and grain (CAS 409-21-2). Customers of SiC Ma members buying SiC crude and grain are therefore not affected by the new classification of SiC fibres.**

**SiC crude and grain** has been extensively tested for the REACH registration dossier and is clearly classified as non-hazardous material.

The decision on the classification of fibres is based on scientific studies for **whiskers**. Nevertheless, ECHA and the EU Commission took a decision for all particles falling under the WHO definition, irrespective whether or not they showed adverse effects. SiC Ma disagrees with this decision from a scientific perspective. Scientific studies undertaken by SiC Ma and other publicly available information indicate that a differentiated view on SiC fibres is required. None of the scientific studies, to our knowledge, showed evidence that cleavage fragments and short fibres have carcinogenic effects. Only very long fibres, so-called 'whiskers' (diameter <1µm, length >10µm; aspect ratio >10) which are produced in a different way than SiC crude and grains may be considered carcinogenic.

Unfortunately, a source of confusion might be that SiC fibres have the same CAS number (CAS N° 409-21-2) as SiC crude and grain, although, this is a completely different material.

Please contact your SiC supplier in case of any further questions.