

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

WORK SAFE WITH POLYURETHANE-BASED STAUF PRODUCTS IN THE FUTURE

Polyurethane-based products are versatile, innovative and safe. They are widely used in buildings, packaging, automotive, furniture, transportation, and more.

Basically, PU products such as our 2-component universal adhesive STAUF R 105, are the result of the reaction between diisocyanate and polyol, which become plastic made of polyurethane.

On products that contain more as 0.1% diisocyanate monomer (PU-containing products from our range such as STAUF VPU 155 S or STAUF PUK 446), users will find the following note: *“From August 24, 2023 adequate training must be given prior to industrial or commercial use.”* This notice is based on a restriction of the EU (EU-REACH regulation) in the handling of diisocyanates and was agreed in cooperation with VCI (Association of the Chemical Industry), BG (Employer’s Liability Insurance Association) and TKB or IVK (Industrial Association Adhesives). It should inform business owners and/or users. This notice will be also on coatings, foams or sealants and other PU-containing building materials. Your employees must therefore be trained and certified in the safe handling of diisocyanate-containing products by August 24, 2023. This applies to all commercial and industrial users of the products.

One exemption here is our 2-component PU polyurethane parquet adhesive STAUF PUK 4Speed, in which the diisocyanate monomer content of the hardener component is less than 0.1 %. This not only avoids the need for training before use, but also the classification of hazardous substances, and the hazard warning elements in the safety data sheet and on the label are reduced, as the hazard statement “H351 May cause cancer” is no longer required.

FEICA (Association of the European Adhesive & Sealant Industry), in cooperation with ISOPA (European Diisocyanate and Polyol Producers Association) and ALIPA (European Aliphatic Isocyanates Producer Association), the European industry association of diisocyanate manufacturers, has developed training materials for use by member companies and for users of adhesives and sealants. The training material is available in English since November 2021 and in German since December 2021, so that all PU product users can be trained and certified by August 24, 2023. All training material will be available in all EU languages by mid-2022. In addition, training documents will be also available for

face-to-face training. For all commercial and industrial users of PUR products, a written proof of participation in a training course including a successful final examination is required. According to the new law, face-to-face training must be done by health and safety specialists. A valid certificate can also be acquired through online training. Employers must verify that their staff have successfully completed the required safety training.

You will find a PU training course platform here: www.safeusediisocyanates.eu. If you have further questions about the training platform and its functions, a help center is available at www.safeusediisocyanates.eu/help-center or by email at main@isopa.org. You can also find more information on the FEICA website: www.feica.eu/our-priorities/safe-use-diisocyanates.

As a commercial and industrial user of PU installation materials, you will get a „FEICA voucher code for web-based training from STAUF. Please contact us. Depending on the area of application of the relevant STAUF products, we recommend training no. 049 *Polyurethane adhesives, floor bonding and floor coatings and waterproofing (excluding spray application)* .

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS

Are diisocyanates safe? As with all chemicals, uses of diisocyanates are safe provided, if appropriate risk management measures are followed.

What is respiratory sensitization? Sensitization occurs when a person becomes allergic after exposure to a chemical. Once sensitized, the person has an allergic reaction to respiratory effects (e.g. asthma) after any chemical exposure (even at very low levels). The majority of people with diisocyanate-related asthma make a full recovery once they are no longer exposed.

What do I have to do as a distributor or reseller? Pass on the information you receive from us to your customer.

When will the new rule come into force? The new regulation was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on August 4, 2020 and will come into force on August 24, 2020. By August 24, 2023 all commercial and industrial users of PU products must be trained and certified.

Will PU adhesives and sealants remain on the market in the future? The restriction serves to avoid hazardous use, but does not reduce the availability of the respective products on the market. Due to the unique properties of PU products, a wide availability of these products is to be expected.

How does the safety training work? STAUF ensures that users have access to safety training according to the requirements of the restriction. For this purpose, FEICA, ISOPA and ALIPA, industry associations of diisocyanate manufacturers, produce training materials in all languages of the European Union in accordance with legal requirements. These training materials are made available at www.feica.eu/PUinfo so that users can participate in online training, webinars or face-to-face training. STAUF is responsible for providing customers with the necessary information on safety training, employers are responsible for ensuring that their employees complete the training and that this is documented in writing.

How long is the training? Times vary depending on training. In principle, however, you should plan about 1 hour per training session.

How long is the certificate or training valid? The certificate is valid for five years.

Where can I find additional and further information on diisocyanates? The diisocyanate industry provides information on diisocyanates and their safe handling on their website:
<http://www.safeusediisocyanates.eu/>