



ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE...

SWITCH FROM SODIUM DICHROMATE TO REACTIVE BLACK

Since our inception 100 years ago our company's philosophy and approach has been to conduct business in a responsible and professional manner. W.T. Johnson and Sons has operated in an economic and sustainable way long before such values became fashionable – water conservation, pollution control and sensible energy use has always been seen by us as good business practice – an approach that is now viewed as essential strategies for reducing environmental impact.



We are proud of our track record of environmentally friendly business practices and as a part of our policy of continual improvement and development we have identified that black dye using Sodium Dichromate is a substance we need to remove from our operation. It is a chemical that has been on the decline for a number of years but is still used in some of our dyeing processes – Sodium Dichromate has been identified as a Substance of Very High Concern by the European chemicals agency and was placed on their 'Candidate List' at the end of 2008. Therefore this substance is to be gradually included in the Annex XIV of the REACH Regulations which will lead to a total European ban over the next few years. For more details on this please visit the European Chemicals Agency website <http://www.echa.europa.eu>.

In light of this we have made the decision that as from January 1st 2010 Sodium Dichromate will no longer be available from W.T. Johnson and will be replaced by Reactive Black and/or Premetalized Black. The immediate benefits of this switch are clear and evident as the removal of this hazardous substance from the supply chain will reduce the risk of pollution and chemical damage.

BENEFITS OF SWITCHING:

- **REDUCED WATER USAGE** – black dye using Sodium Dichromate uses more water during processing
- **SOFTER FABRIC HANDLE** – Sodium Dichromate produces fabric with a harsher handle than Reactive Black or Premetalized Black
- **QUALITY ASSURANCE** – Our alternative dyes will satisfy Oeko-tex and Eco-Flower label standards
- **CONSUMER TRENDS** – The demand for environmentally friendly products continues at an ever increasing rate and the market is rejecting products containing harmful chemicals



For a more detailed explanation and/or presentation regarding this policy and the alternative dyestuffs we've outlined please contact Alan Dolley on 01484 549965.

[click here](#) for the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) SVHC support document as a pdf

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