



## Beyond Labeling: Ensuring Business Continuity Through MIPA-Free Formulations

### A reclassification with impact

A simple reclassification on a chemical label might not sound like a turning point — yet for many manufacturers, it is.

The European Union's updated classification of Monoisopropanolamine (MIPA) as a suspected reproductive toxic component marks a critical shift for the metalworking industry.

Many widely used metalworking fluids rely on MIPA to achieve key properties such as pH-value stability or aluminum compatibility. But with the new classification, MIPA moves from being a functional substance to a substance of concern — one that could affect not just labeling, but also product approvals, workplace safety policies, and supply chain continuity.

What began as a technical update now challenges formulators and users of metalworking fluids to rethink how they protect their workforce, maintain compliance, and secure operational resilience.

For Master Fluid Solutions, this shift is more than a regulatory requirement — it's an opportunity to lead the transition toward safer and more sustainable metalworking fluids.



## Understanding MIPA and its new classification

MIPA has long served as a neutralizing agent in metalworking fluids. However, recent toxicological data prompted an update to its classification under the EU CLP Regulation and REACH Regulation Annex XVII.

### New labeling:

- H314** Causes severe skin burns and eye damage
- H312** Harmful in contact with skin
- H361f** Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child

This latest designation places MIPA in the group of CMR (Carcinogenic, Mutagenic, or Reprotoxic) substances, specifically Reproductive Toxicant Category 2. While this does not constitute an outright ban, many industrial users — particularly in aerospace, medical, and precision manufacturing — are already moving to exclude all CMR substances from their processes to safeguard both workers and reputations.

## What changes — and when

The updated classification of MIPA as “reproductive toxic category 2 (H361f)” is expected to take effect in May 2026, but most suppliers have already begun applying the new labeling.

### New labeling:

- > Products containing more than 3% MIPA must carry the *H361f* label.
- > Even concentrations of 0.1% or more must be declared in Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

Although the deadline still seems some way off, the practical timeline is short. The supply chain is already adjusting, leaving manufacturers only a few months to reformulate and update product documentation.

## The implications for metalworking fluid users

The new classification triggers a ripple effect across production environments.



### Compliance pressure:

Even if not yet banned, MIPA's CMR classification draws scrutiny under occupational safety regulations and customer audits.



### Certification risk:

Reformulation under pressure risks performance shifts and loss of existing product approvals. Recertification can be both costly and time-consuming.



### Market perception:

OEMs and suppliers increasingly specify “CMR-free” products as a procurement requirement. Products containing MIPA may soon fall out of qualification lists altogether.

**The result:** companies that act early will secure compliance, maintain customer confidence, and avoid last-minute disruptions.

## Master Fluid Solutions: Proactive Transition

Master Fluid Solutions recognized early that the industry's future depends on anticipating regulatory and safety challenges, not reacting to them.

Our European R&D hub initiated a reformulation program well before the new MIPA classification was formalized.

### ✓ Key milestones:

- > Complete elimination of MIPA from all formulations for General Machining purposes.
- > Reformulation of all MIPA-containing products to ensure equal or improved performance.
- > Full MIPA-free General Machining portfolio available since January 2026.

Each reformulated product underwent rigorous validation for stability, corrosion, performance, and material compatibility, ensuring customers can transition smoothly and without risk to process integrity.

## Looking Ahead: Safe, Sustainable, and Compliant Solutions

At Master Fluid Solutions, we continue to support our partners by providing:



Technical consultation on reformulation and substitution strategies.



Guidance on documentation and audit readiness, and high-performance, low-risk formulations.



Ongoing research into high-performance, low-risk formulations.

Our vision is clear: empowering manufacturers with fluids that deliver performance without compromise — for sustainable operations.

## Conclusion

The reclassification of MIPA highlights how even a seemingly small regulatory change can have far-reaching implications for business continuity. What started as a labeling update now directly impacts product approvals, worker safety, and long-term operational stability.

For manufacturers, this challenge is not just about compliance — it's about maintaining reliable production, preserving customer trust, and avoiding costly disruptions. Companies that transition early to MIPA-free formulations safeguard not only their people and processes but also their competitive advantage.

By offering a fully MIPA-free product portfolio well ahead of the regulatory deadline, Master Fluid Solutions ensures that its customers can continue operating with confidence — meeting today's safety expectations while securing the continuity of their business for the future.

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