

January 25, 2021

Dear Valued Customer,  
 Nonylphenol Ethoxylate (NPE) and Octylphenol Ethoxylate (OPE) based surfactants have been added to the REACH Authorization List (Annex XIV) from July 3, 2017. Addition of substances to Annex XIV means that uses will be prohibited or restricted, with no minimum exception available. As of January 4, any materials containing greater than 0.1% of these chemicals are no longer allowed to be sold and are banned from use in Europe.

Based on the REACH guidelines, the below Kester products are no longer available in Europe:

- 977 No Clean Liquid Flux
- 2331-ZX Water Soluble Liquid Flux
- EM828 Water Soluble Solder Paste
- EM919G No Clean Solder Paste
- R520A Water Soluble Paste
- R562 Water Soluble Paste

These materials are still available in the Americas and Asia; however, given the REACH guidelines, the status of these chemistries could change given any potential new regulations.

A list of potential Kester and/or Alpha branded potential replacement products can be found below. If not already qualified by your organization, these replacement materials are available for immediate sampling and evaluation. Note that this list of potential replacement materials is not all inclusive as MAES supplies many other products which may also be suitable based on your process and end use application. Please work with your local MAES Representative to determine which product is best for you.

Product Type	Product Name	Key Attributes	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Liquid Flux	977	No clean, VOC-free	Kester 979	Kester 979VT	ALPHA EF-2100
Liquid Flux	2331-ZX	Alcohol based, water soluble	Kester 2224-25	ALPHA 856	ALPHA 365-25
Solder Paste	EM828	Water soluble	Kester WP616	Kester EM808	ALPHA WS-820
Solder Paste	EM919G	No clean, lead free	Kester NP545	ALPHA CVP-390V	ALPHA OM-340
Solder Paste	R520A	Water soluble	Kester WP616	ALPHA WS-820	ALPHA WS-819
Solder Paste	R562	Water soluble	Kester HM531	ALPHA WS-820	ALPHA WS-819

Again, this change in availability only affects the European Union countries and not Asia or the Americas region as of the timing of this notification.

Should anyone have any questions, please do not hesitate to let our team know and how we can help. As always, we greatly appreciate the partnership we share.

Sincerely,



Scott Lewin  
 RMM Americas