

EC Revises Definition of Nanomaterials

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On June 10, 2022, the European Commission (EC) announced that it is clarifying the definition of nanomaterials in a new Recommendation that supports a coherent European Union (EU) regulatory framework for nanomaterials, helping to align legislation across all sectors.

The EC states that the [new definition](#) should be used in EU and national legislation, policy, and research programs. The [Recommendation](#) states:

‘[Nanomaterial](#)’ means a natural, incidental or manufactured material consisting of solid particles that are present, either on their own or as identifiable constituent particles in aggregates or agglomerates, and where 50% or more of these particles in the number-based size distribution fulfil at least one of the following conditions:

- 1- One or more external dimensions of the particle are in the size range 1 nm to 100 nm;
- 2- The particle has an elongated shape, such as a rod, fibre or tube, where two external dimensions are smaller than 1 nm and the other dimension is larger than 100 nm;
- 3- The particle has a plate-like shape, where one external dimension is smaller than 1 nm and the other dimensions are larger than 100 nm.
- 4- In the determination of the particle number-based size distribution, particles with at least two orthogonal external dimensions larger than 100 µm need not be considered.

However, a material with a specific surface area by volume of $< 6 \text{ m}^2/\text{cm}^3$ shall not be considered a nanomaterial.

The new definition replaces the definition published in 2011. According to the EC, it developed the revisions following a comprehensive review, and the revisions “should allow easier and more efficient implementation, but will not significantly affect the scope of identified nanomaterials.”

Read the [original article](#) on National Law Review.