

REACH E-NEWSLETTER

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N°27 • AUGUST 2018



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SGS

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

The UK REACH e-bulletin brings you key issues relating to the EU REACH (Registration Evaluation and Restriction of Chemicals) regulation.

We bring information on proposed changes, confirmed changes and the possible effects of these changes from a manufacturing, retail and consumer perspective. Opinions from all concerned parties are reported so a full picture of the workings and effects of the regulation are shared.

The information in the following pages is sourced from European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and Chemical Watch. Each of our articles are linked back to source for further reading.

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LOWER CONCENTRATION LIMIT PROPOSED FOR PAHS FOUND IN GRANULES AND MULCHES

The Netherlands has prepared a proposal to support a possible restriction to address the risks from eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) found in granules and mulches used in synthetic turf pitches, or in loose forms at playgrounds and other sports facilities.

The proposal, prepared by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) in cooperation with ECHA, states that the general concentration limits set under REACH for eight carcinogenic PAHs in mixtures are insufficient for protecting those who come into contact with the granules and mulches while playing at sports facilities and playgrounds.

In its assessment, RIVM looks at the human health risk for professional football players (including goalkeepers), children playing on the pitches and on playgrounds, as well as workers installing and maintaining the pitches and playgrounds.

The proposal suggests a combined concentration limit for the eight PAHs of 17 mg/kg (0.0017% by weight). The current concentration limits applicable for supply to the general public are set at 100 mg/kg for two of the PAHs and

1,000 mg/kg for the other six.

The proposal of the Netherlands, available on ECHA's website, outlines that the suggested reduction in the concentration limit would:

- ensure the cancer risk from PAH exposure remains very low for those coming into contact with the granules and mulches;
- decrease societal concerns about the negative health impacts caused by the PAHs;
- lead to no major additional administrative burdens on public authorities in terms of costs for implementing the lower concentration limit; and
- cause relatively limited and affordable societal costs.

ECHA's committees will now check whether the restriction dossier conforms to the requirements of REACH. If so, a six-month long consultation will begin in September 2018. ECHA's scientific committees will assess the proposal and formulate their opinions, and these will be submitted to the Commission.

In addition to processing the Netherlands' proposal, ECHA will

assess – as requested by the European Commission – the health risks of other substances that may be contained in granules and mulches used as infill in synthetic sports pitches. It is possible that ECHA will also assess the environmental risks too.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, both ECHA and RIVM assessed the health risks associated with playing sports on synthetic turf pitches where rubber granules are used as infill material.

ECHA concluded in 2017 that there was, at most, a very low level of concern due to the PAHs present in those materials. However, ECHA also gave a number of recommendations to be considered for the future – the first of which was to consider a restriction under REACH to ensure that granules for use as infill material in sports fields are only supplied with very low concentrations of PAHs and of any other relevant hazardous substances.

Article source: [ECHA](#)



DO YOU USE TRICHLOROETHYLENE?

The Commission has recently granted an authorisation for five uses of Trichloroethylene to the company 'Blue Cube Germany Assets GmbH&Co. KG'. If they supply this substance to you directly or indirectly, the authorisation number(s) should be included in their extended safety data sheet (e-SDS) and on the labels. There are obligations for downstream users. You need to comply with the conditions of the authorisation described in the e-SDS and notify ECHA within three months after the first delivery of the substance, providing occupational exposure data

and a written declaration as described in the decision, if relevant. ECHA forwards this information to the authorisation holder, who may use it to prepare review reports for extending the authorisation period. For use in cleaning industrial parts, the first exposure measurements are due by 3 February 2019 and should be included in a notification to ECHA as soon as possible (review report due by 21 April 2019). Further information on submitting downstream user notification of authorised uses is available online as is the authorisation decision.

Article source: [Health and Safety Executive](#)



AUTHORISATIONS GRANTED FOR USES OF CHROMIUM TRIOXIDE

The European Commission has approved applications for a use of chromium trioxide (EC 215-607-8) by Clariant Produkte (Deutschland) GmbH for use in a catalyst for the dehydrogenation of Propane to Propene, and Topocrom GmbH for the use of chromium trioxide in Topocrom functional chrome plating in closed

reactor systems for the establishment of adjustable hemispherical surface structures.

For both uses currently no suitable alternatives exist. Review periods for both uses expire on 21 September 2029.

Article source: [ECHA](#)



GERMAN APP RAISES AWARENESS OF PFCs

The German Environment Agency (UBA) has launched an app to raise awareness of per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFCs) in consumer products.

The PFC-Planet app explains how the toxic chemicals get into the environment and the food chain, what the consequences are and what consumers can do about it.

It uses videos, animated graphics and short texts to illustrate where consumers come into contact with the substances and has a quiz where readers can test their knowledge.

Because of their properties to resist heat, stain, grease and water, PFCs are used in a variety of products, including:

- textiles;
- paper; and
- extinguishing agents.

In July, an EU-funded project focusing on textiles concluded the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) should be limited to applications for which technical performance is "unique and critical".

Article source: [ChemicalWatch.com](#)



SWEDISH PFAS REPORTING OBLIGATION DUE IN 2019

Companies in Sweden must start providing information on the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) when notifying products to the national products register from 1 January 2019.

From that date, as per the amended regulation, they will have until the end of February 2020 to notify the manufactured quantities for the previous year, the Swedish chemicals agency, Kemi, said.

The notification of a new product is made once and the company then is obliged to advise the quantities manufactured or sold on a yearly basis.

Companies with annual sales under SEK5m (€474,803) will be exempt from the requirement.

Previously, companies had to provide information on all substances present at levels above 5%, with substances classified as hazardous reported regardless of the level of exposure.

As PFAS are often found in concentrations below 5% – and most of the substances are currently not assessed in terms of hazard – few companies have been obliged to notify the register.

The proposed amended regulation means that companies must also

state whether the products contain deliberately added PFAS. This should apply regardless of level but actual content will not be reported, Kemi said. PFAS are extremely difficult to break down and have contaminated drinking water in several places in Sweden. The amended regulation aims to increase knowledge of how PFAS are used. More information on this makes it easier to assess potential measures to protect human health and the environment, it said.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com



TRADE GROUP WARNS OF 'OVER-REGULATION' OF FOUR PHTHALATES

A proposed 'double listing' of four phthalates on the REACH Authorisation List is "unnecessary over-regulation" which could place "excessive burdens" on industry, says trade association European Plasticisers.

The low molecular weight phthalates – DEHP, DBP, DIBP and BBP – are currently on the Authorisation List (REACH Annex XIV) for their reprotoxic properties, after being identified as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) in 2008 and 2009.

In 2014, DEHP was identified as a SVHC due to its endocrine disrupting properties for the environment. And last year, all four phthalates were identified as SVHCs for the same for human health.

The European Commission is now preparing to amend the entries of the four substances, to include these ED properties. Consequently, some currently exempted uses may require authorisation.

For example, the inclusion of environmental hazards among the intrinsic properties of DEHP would make the authorisation requirement applicable to

food contact materials and certain medical devices, which are currently exempt.

EXCESSIVE BURDENS

European Plasticisers published a statement on its website, saying the updating of the Authorisation List to include endocrine disrupting properties "will oblige DEHP producers, medical devices producers and recyclers of flexible PVC to face a new challenge regarding the authorisation process."

This "puts excessive burdens on the industry, weakens policy predictability and hence undermines the European industry from investing and staying competitive in a global market," it adds.

Michela Mastrantonio of European Plasticisers said that the four phthalates "have already been thoroughly evaluated and regulated" and said "double-listings and overlaps should always be avoided".

The European plasticiser market has "already adapted to the regulatory and market pressure with an important

major shift from the use of these classified LMW phthalates to the use of non-classified high molecular weight phthalates and other plasticisers", she added.

A public consultation into amending the Authorisation List ended on 6 August and responses are now being considered by the Commission.

Meanwhile, last month EU member states voted unanimously in favour of a proposal to restrict the four phthalates in articles. Prior to the meeting, NGOs called on member states to include food contact materials in the scope of the proposed restriction.

Ms Mastrantonio said that European Plasticisers supports the restriction "as it is meant to ensure a level playing field for European companies versus importers of articles manufactured outside the EU" but believed the restriction should be limited to non-authorised uses.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com



UK POST-BREXIT CHEMICALS IT SYSTEM COULD BE 'READY TOMORROW'

The UK's IT capability to enable the registration and regulation of chemical substances placed on the national market after Brexit, is mostly built and "would work" tomorrow if needed, the Health and Safety Executive has said.

The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs is constructing the system with HSE input. Earlier this year, MPs said the UK's chemicals industry could be at "substantial risk" if Defra is unable to properly update its IT systems before the UK leaves the EU.

But at a recent HSE workshop in Liverpool, Dave Bench, the executive's director of EU Exit – Chemicals, said "even if we do nothing else with it between now and March it would work".

The workshop was organised as part of HSE's ongoing contingency planning. Others are likely to take place as the negotiations progress in the coming months.

The event, which was swiftly organised after the government gave permission for it to go ahead, aimed to give the almost 120 stakeholders present an overview of

the current state of preparations and seek their input on the way forward.

"We would be able to run a registration system," Mr Bench said. "Certainly we are seeking to refine it and make it more user-friendly just in case we need to use it. But the level of resource required is not enormous and is certainly comfortably handleable over the time period we are talking about."

The system has become a key part of the debate on future chemicals regulations. At a House of Lords select committee on 18 July, Defra's Deputy Director of EU environment, Gabrielle Edwards, said the department is trying to build a system that will "replicate what the ECHA system does" as far as possible.

Some of the fuller functionality that is not required necessarily on day one would come on board on a "slightly slower" time scale, Ms Edwards added. "The critical thing for day one is to have that registration function in place."

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com



UPDATED PUBLICATIONS: 'INFORMATION ON CHEMICALS' AND 'CHEMICAL SAFETY AND YOUR BUSINESS'

ECHA has updated its factsheet about the REACH, CLP, BPR and PIC databases. In addition, an update of 'Chemical safety and your business' is now online. Both publications are available in 23 EU languages.

- [Information on chemicals](#)
- [Chemical safety and your business](#)

Article source: ECHA

WHY SGS?

SGS is the world's leading inspection, verification, testing and certification company. SGS is recognised as the global benchmark for quality and integrity. With more than 95,000 employees, SGS operates a network of over 2,400 offices and laboratories around the world.

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

