

REACH E-NEWSLETTER

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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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MEMBER STATES AGREE WITH PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT CMR'S IN TEXTILES

The European Commission has proposed to limit the exposure to 33 chemicals that are carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR) by restricting their placing on the market in clothing, textiles and footwear. Member States supported the proposal, prepared under a simplified restriction procedure, in April. Now, the legislative proposal will undergo a scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council.

The substances targeted by the restriction proposal are found in products that consumers can be exposed to through direct and prolonged skin contact, inhalation or unintentional ingestion of textile fibre dust. These include clothing and related accessories, footwear and textiles other than clothing that touch the skin, such as bed linen, upholstery and reusable nappies.

Each of the substances has different properties and they are used in different processes in the textile and footwear industries, so maximum concentration limits have been specified for individual substances or groups of substances. This allows us to consider the technical feasibility of achieving the limits and the availability of appropriate analytical methods to be considered.

FIRST OF ITS KIND

The proposal is the first simplified restriction prepared for articles using the structured approach agreed with Member States and stakeholders in 2014 - 2015.

The process started in late 2015 with a discussion between the Commission and Member States authorities on the criteria for implementation on articles, where textiles, clothing and footwear were listed as priorities.

Hazardous substances in these products had already previously raised concerns. The Commission had indications of the possible presence of CMR substances from the work done by some EU Member States and NGOs. So, it was a logical choice to target them through the simplified restriction route.

The simplified procedure makes it possible to address a larger number of CMR substances at once, rather than

THE RESTRICTION COVERS 33 CMR CATEGORY 1A AND 1B SUBSTANCES FROM THE FOLLOWING SUBSTANCE GROUPS:

- cadmium, chromium, arsenic and lead compounds;
- benzene and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs);
- chlorinated aromatic hydrocarbons;
- formaldehyde;
- phthalates;
- polar aprotic solvents;
- azo-dyes and arylamines; and
- quinoline.

A full list of the proposed substances and restricted concentration limits by weight is available in the [draft regulation](#).

Clothing, related accessories and footwear (or their parts) made of natural leather, fur and hide, as well as non-textile fasteners and decorative attachments have been excluded from the proposal as different processes are used in their production.

Textiles used in medical devices are exempt, as they need to fulfil specific safety and functionality requirements.

In addition, second-hand articles that are in consumer use before the restriction applies are excluded as it would be nearly impossible to enforce in products already placed on the market. However, articles made from recycled fibres are to be covered by the restriction.

creating individual restrictions for each of the substances.

The procedure omits some steps of a standard restriction, such as a public consultation of the proposal and the opinions of ECHA's Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Assessment (SEAC).

Even if not required by the REACH procedure, the Commission [consulted stakeholders](#) on the scope and the list of possibly relevant substances to obtain more information on their use and presence in the concerned products.

The Commission also organised a [technical workshop](#) with stakeholders and asked for [feedback on the proposal](#).



FINAL ADOPTION IN AUTUMN?

The Member States first discussed the proposal at the REACH Committee in February. The vote took place on 26 April. It will be published in the *Official Journal* of the EU after scrutiny by the Parliament and Council.

The regulation will enter into force 20 days after publication in the *Official Journal*. However, companies have 24 months to apply the law, so around autumn 2020 the restricted substances should no longer be present in the textiles mentioned in the scope.

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu

UK GOVERNMENT DENIES BAN ON **WET WIPES**



The UK says it is not planning a ban on wet wipes, as was recently widely reported in the media, but is working with industry to find “suitable alternatives” that consumers can safely dispose.

Wet wipes, also known as wet towels or baby wipes, are small, moistened pieces of paper or cloth used for cleaning purposes. They contain plastics which, when flushed down the toilet, can block sewers and slowly break down into microplastics that in turn cause harm to marine life.

Reports across the UK media this week suggested that wet wipes would be banned as part of the government’s 25-year environment plan, which aims to eliminate all avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) subsequently clarified the position, saying that while eliminating single-use plastic waste is one of the government’s top priorities, “we have not announced plans to ban wet wipes”.

Defra said it is working with manufacturers and water companies to understand which types of wet wipes cause sewer blockages, and make sure labelling on the products “is clear and people know how to dispose of them properly”.

Authorities are employing tougher controls on microplastics pollution. The UK ban on the manufacture of cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads came into effect in January. A ban on sales of such products will follow on 30 June.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com

ECHA ADVICE ON INCOMPLETE REGISTRATION **DOSSIERS**

ECHA’s advice: “After you submit your dossier to ECHA, we check that the information in it is complete before sending you your registration number. If some information is missing, we will inform you through your REACH-IT account. You will then need to include the requested information in your dossier and send it to us again as an update.”

“You do not need to rush in sending us the update: the deadline for updating your dossier – indicated in our communication – may be set at a few months after 31 May. Take the time to make sure you understand what you need to do to complete your registration and contact us if our instructions are not clear.”

“After you have successfully submitted the requested update, you will receive your registration number. Your registration date will be the day we received your initial dossier, even if the update was submitted after 31 May.”

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu



ANSES WARNS AGAINST HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES IN HOMEMADE TOY 'SLIME'

Homemade toy 'slime' can pose health risks to children as they may contain hazardous substances, the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety has warned.

Several cases of skin damage related to the product have been reported to the agency, poison control centres and various allergy control networks, Anses said.

The slime kits have become very popular with younger children and teenagers in France, and tutorials on the internet on home fabrication have increased interest in the product.

In a joint warning with the French Directorate-General for Competition, Consumer Affairs and Fraud Control (DGCCRF), Anses said detergents and adhesives used in homemade slime contain allergenic or irritant preservatives that are not meant to be handled in large quantities, repeatedly and for a prolonged time.

Liquid adhesives – the most common ingredient – contain preservatives

such as formaldehyde liberators or isothiazolinones, which are "very allergenic substances", as well as many solvents, which can cause irritation of the airways and damage to the central nervous system, Anses said.

The majority of online do-it-yourself recipes also contain boron compounds. These substances, intended for cleaning contact lenses or as detergents, are reprotoxic, may impact foetal development and "must not be manipulated by children repeatedly", it said.

The DGCCRF also conducted a survey of slime kits sold in shops. Of the 15 samples analysed, two contained a boron content exceeding the permissible limit and were withdrawn from the market. The DGCCRF will continue its market controls in 2018.

Last month, the Norwegian Environmental Directorate removed some ready-made slime products from the market, after it found they contained high levels of lead and arsenic.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com

BPA BEING REPLACED BY **BPS** IN THERMAL PAPER, ECHA SURVEY FINDS



EU paper manufacturers have started to substitute BPA with BPS, according to a survey conducted by ECHA for the European Commission.

The amount of BPS used as developer in thermal paper on the EU market almost doubled between 2016 and 2017. Reflecting the overall increase in the use of thermal paper in the EU in 2017, BPA use also increased in the same time period.

Table 1: Developers used in thermal paper placed on the EU market by EU manufacturers in 2016 and 2017 (tonnes).

DEVELOPER	2016	2017	CHANGE
Bisphenol A	2 606	2 776	+7 %
Bisphenol S	200	397	+98 %
Other developers	1 065	1 022	-4 %
Total	3 871	4 195	+8 %

Source: European Thermal Paper Association

About 30 % of thermal paper in the EU is imported from China, India, Japan, Korea and the US. Unfortunately, information on how the use of different developers in these products changed during the inspected time period was not available for the survey.

The market share of BPS-based thermal papers is expected to continue to increase in the coming years, and in particular after 2 January 2020, when BPA can no longer be used in thermal paper in the EU.

The substitution of BPA by BPS is worrisome given that ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee in its opinion on BPA indicated that BPS "is suspected to have many of the same adverse health effects as BPA".

ECHA has been following the use of developers in thermal paper – and in particular the replacement of BPA with BPS and other developers – in the EU at the Commission's request. The market survey's report will be used by the Commission as it considers whether a proposal to restrict BPS is necessary. ECHA will carry out the next survey in early 2019.

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu

ECHA CALL FOR **EVIDENCE**: RESTRICTION OF SKIN SENSITISING, IRRITATIVE AND/OR CORROSIVE SUBSTANCES

The Swedish and French competent authorities are jointly preparing an Annex XV restriction dossier according to Article 69 of REACH on the use of skin sensitising, irritative and/or corrosive substances in textile and leather articles, hides and furs.

Interested parties are invited to submit any information related to these substances to help with the preparation of the dossier.

The deadline for providing comments is 3 August 2018 (23:59 Helsinki time).

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu



CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT **EU METHANOL RESTRICTION** ON WINDSCREEN FLUIDS

The trade association representing the methanol industry has expressed "disappointment" at an EU restriction on methanol in consumer windscreen washing and defrosting fluids.

The restriction on concentrations equal to or greater than 0.6% by weight in the fluids is due to come into force in May 2019. It follows a Polish proposal aimed at preventing accidental methanol poisoning of chronic alcoholics drinking the fluids.

It is also expected to prevent the poisoning from accidental ingestion by children. Industrial and professional uses of methanol will still be allowed.

But, in a statement this week, the Methanol Institute's CEO Gregory Dolan says a restriction is not the best way to address these concerns. He says the illegal consumption of windscreen washing fluids is isolated to certain member states and not an EU-wide issue.

The problem could be effectively addressed by national strategies. These could "increase consumer education, increase social awareness, provide more vigilant enforcement, involve the targeted use of bitterants" and,



where applicable, implement national legislation, he says.

A restriction will have "a direct financial impact on consumers across Europe", Mr Dolan says.

Furthermore, he says, two socio-economic analyses performed have shown that annual costs of a restriction will "outweigh any projected societal health benefits".

When the European Commission originally added methanol to REACH Annex XVII, it said the restriction would come into force this May. It later issued a corrigendum to the Regulation, making the effective date 9 May 2019.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com

ECHA WELCOMES IMPROVED CLARITY ON **NANOMATERIALS** IN THE EU – MEMBER STATES VOTE TO AMEND REACH ANNEXES

During the REACH Committee on 26 April, Member States voted for the draft Commission Regulation amending several Annexes to REACH. The proposed amendments will clarify REACH registration requirements with regard to nanomaterials and address the knowledge gap on which substances registered under REACH are placed on the market as nanomaterials and in which quantities.

The amendments will enable both companies and authorities to know more about the characteristics of nanomaterials, how they are used, how they are handled safely, what risks they potentially pose to health and the environment and how these risks are controlled.

The draft Commission Regulation is now subject to scrutiny by the Parliament and Council for a period of three months before being adopted by the Commission. ECHA will already start to assess the need to update existing, or issue new guidance to support registrants in complying with the new requirements.

As soon as the proposal is formally adopted, ECHA encourages registrants of nanoform substances to familiarise themselves with the amendments and assess what action they need to take to comply.

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu



LEAD REGISTRANT LIST NOW EASIER TO ACCESS

The lead registrant list now has an individual web address, which makes it easier to find. The list can also be accessed, as usual, from the REACH registration statistics infographic.

[Lead registrants list](#) ▶

Article source: ECHA.europa.eu

NORTHERN IRELAND TO BAN MICROBEADS IN RINSE-OFF COSMETICS

Northern Ireland is to ban the manufacture and sale of rinse-off cosmetics and personal care products containing plastic microbeads, from September this year.

The UK government implemented the first phase of its ban, which applies to the manufacture of such items, in January. The second phase will prohibit their sale from the end of June.

In its notification to the European Commission, Northern Ireland said there are currently no known manufacturers using plastic microbeads in the region, which prompted it to implement the ban on manufacture and sale at the same time.

The regulations apply to Northern Ireland only. However, the various UK administrations have developed legislation collaboratively to ensure the definition of the ban is consistent. The objective is that it will eventually apply across the UK.

The devolved governments of Scotland and Wales have submitted separate notifications, with their bans coming into effect on 19 June and 30 June respectively.

The difference between the various UK regions is in the enforcement regime, according to the notification from Northern Ireland.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com



AskREACH PROJECT AIMS TO MAKE ARTICLE 33 OF REACH WORK BETTER BY ENABLING CONSUMERS TO TRACK SVHCs IN ARTICLES

Article 33 stipulates that suppliers “shall provide the recipient of the article with sufficient information, available to the supplier, to allow safe use of the article including, as a minimum, the name of that substance”. It also requires suppliers to provide consumers with the same information, free of charge, within 45 days of receiving a request.

On a pan-European scale, the AskREACH project started in September 2017 and will run for five years. It is coordinated by the German Environment Agency, with 19 partners from 13 Member States, including NGOs, authorities and research institutes.

AskREACH will mainly produce:

- an EU-wide app for consumers, which will be adapted to each member state, in terms of language but also specific information about any aspects particularly relevant in any of them; and
- a central European database, where article suppliers and retailers can upload information of their articles via a barcode, including SVHC details and where within the article any SVHC(s) are contained.

Two apps already exist in Germany, ToxFox and Scan4Chem, and companies involved in those are part of the consortium, as well as the creators of Tjek Kemien. Thus, AskREACH will be able to apply lessons from these projects, learning from the deficiencies of a national approach.

“The principle is similar. To existing apps. You scan the barcode and receive information directly from the database if available; if it is not, a request can be sent automatically to the barcode owner and the retailer to get an individual answer, and the barcode owner can update the database,” he explains.

AskREACH will make the database as easy as possible to use, including:

- bulk uploading of articles;
- automatic updating of information on SVHCs if any changes are made in article composition;
- a standardised data exchange format so that information in existing internal company tools can easily be transferred; and
- compatibility with the ECHA database, so that requests can be made in standardised way.

Supplier and retailer duties to the app users will be fulfilled by uploading information, because everything else will be done automatically. Different language versions will use standard sentences so that most translation is done directly.

It is also hoped to see an additional option of declaring that there are no SVHCs in a product, in order to increase transparency and traceability. Suppliers who feed the database can benefit from the option to offer additional, more detailed information on the scanned article, such as via a link to a company website.

The app is due to be launched in April 2019 and AskREACH is inviting companies to participate and to test the tools and give input on possible improvements.

Article source: ChemicalWatch.com



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