

Regulation of Hazardous Substances – An Update

Routine extension of the [SVHC Candidate List](#) was undertaken in December 2013. Seven further substances of concern were added. Moreover, an EU Regulation concerning Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) also came into force in the same month. In addition to these EU-wide measures, Norway has become the first country to pass a law banning the use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

On-going Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation, and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) by EChA (European Chemicals Agency) are leading to a continuous lengthening of the Candidate List and the two Annexes XIV and XVII of the REACH Regulation. Whereas additions to the SVHC Candidate List are made twice yearly, regulations and directives restricting or banning chemical substances can be introduced at any time after assessment has been performed. December 2013 saw not only extension of the Candidate List but also amendment of Annex XVII of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH Regulation) to include restrictions on eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Inclusion of Seven More Substance of Potentially Very High Concern in the Candidate List

The [SVHC Candidate List](#) continues to grow and meanwhile comprises 151 substances (as of 16.12.2013). On 16 December 2013, EChA included seven more compounds as substances of potentially very high concern in the SVHC Candidate List.

Not all of the seven new listed substances are of relevance in the production of consumer goods made of leather and textiles. Relevant substances could be dihexyl phthalate (DnHP), a phthalate plasticiser, for which concentrations in plastics could well exceed 0.1 percent by weight, and cadmium sulphide, which is used as a pigment. The entire supply chain should be scrutinised for these two substances in order to rule out their use. Because they can release benzidine, the two newly included dyes C.I. Direct Red 28 and C.I. Direct Black 38 are already covered by the ban on azo dyes, which can release carcinogenic amines. The limit value of 30 mg/kg benzidine from Annex XVII is reached long before the value of 0.1 percent by weight is exceeded. Use of the other three substances, viz. imidazolidine-2-thione, lead diacetate, and trixylyl phosphate, in the production of footwear and leather goods is highly unlikely, meaning that a content exceeding 0.1 percent by weight in the product is not to be expected. The current [SVHC Candidate List with an indication of the relevance for individual groups of materials](#) can be found on the PFI homepage in the analytical chemistry section.

Regulation to Restrict PAHs

Regulation (EU) 1272/2013 regarding amendment of Annex XVII of Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 concerning Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) covers a wide range of consumer goods. In addition to footwear, gloves, and clothing, sports equipment, tools, and household appliances are also listed as examples. The limit value of each of the eight REACH PAHs is set at 1 mg/kg for all these products. The regulation already came into force in December 2013: However, the limit value will apply only after a

transitional period of two years from 27 December 2015. Articles first placed on the market prior to 27.12.2015 remain unaffected by this regulation. In order to give suppliers sufficient time to modify their production methods where necessary, checks on compliance with the limit values are to start well before December 2015. This regulation concerns the PAHs listed under Point 50 of Annex XVII: viz. benzo[a]pyrene (BaP), benzo[e]pyrene (BeP), benzo[a]anthracene (BaA), chrysene (CHR), benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbFA), benzo[j]fluoranthene (BjFA), benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkFA), and dibenzo[a,h]anthracene (DBahA).

PFOA: Norway Bans Production, Use, Import, and Sale

After last year's inclusion of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the SVHC Candidate List, Norway (which is not an EU Member State but has very close links with the EU through its membership of the European Economic Area and the Schengen area and participates in the single market) has ventured to ban PFOA in consumer goods. As of 1 June 2014, a limit value of 1.0 µg/m² in textiles, carpets, and other coated consumer products will apply for this substance. This limit value is based on the REACH Regulation for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFOA is used in water-repellent and soil-repellent finishing of textiles. The substance is degraded very slowly in the environment where it accumulates. The compound is suspected of having a deleterious effect on humans and the environment. Companies exporting goods to Norway or placing them on the market in that country will have to comply with the appropriate limit values as of June 2014. In all other European countries notification remains obligatory when goods having a PFOA content in excess of 0.1 percent by weight are placed on the market.

Further information:

Dr. Michael Knauer

Head of Analytical Chemistry and Chemical Research

Tel.: +49 (0)6331 2490 717

E-Mail: michael.knauer@pfi-germany.de