

REACH: Changes to Annex XIV

On publication of Regulation EU 895/2014 in August of this year, nine substances formerly listed as SVHC candidates were included in Annex XIV of the REACH Regulation.

The substances concerned are:

- Formaldehyde, oligomeric reaction product with aniline (also known as technical MDA or methylenedianiline),
- arsenic acid,
- bis(2-methoxyethyl) ether (diglyme),
- 1,2-dichloromethane,
- 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'-methylenedianiline (MOCA),
- dichromium tris(chromate),
- strontium chromate,
- potassium hydroxyoctaoxodizincate dichromate,
- and pentazinc chromate octahydroxide.

Arsenic acid and the four last-mentioned chromates are not used in the production of footwear or footwear materials.

“Formaldehyde, oligomeric reaction product with aniline” is a plastic. Although it bears the word “formaldehyde” in its name, it should not be confused with free formaldehyde. Formaldehyde itself is not affected by this Regulation. Moreover, formaldehyde-melanine resins, used as tanning agents, and formaldehyde-urea resins, such as are used in textile production, are not covered and can continue to be used.

Bis(2-methoxyethyl) ether and 1,2-dichloroethane are organic solvents with numerous uses. For example, 1,2-dichloroethane is used in the production of vinyl chloride, the starting product for PVC. Both substances can serve as solvents in process chemicals such as adhesives and therefore also find use in the footwear industry.

Azo dyes, which can liberate the carcinogenic amine 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'-methylenedianiline, have long been forbidden. The use of the substance itself has now also been restricted through inclusion of the amine in Annex XIV. In addition to its use in dye production, the compound also serves as a cross-linking agent in polyurethane production.

Use of all the substances mentioned above may continue in Europe until January 2019. Any intended use after that date requires submission of an application for authorisation to ECHA by July 2017. Inclusion in the Annex has no implications for production outside of the EU. The notification and information obligations for SVHC substances continue to apply here.

Further information

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