

SCCP: Threshold Set for Unintentional Contamination

In June 2012 short-chain chloroparaffins (SCCP) were included in Annex 1B of the POP regulation (EU 850/2004), thus effectively banning the use of this class of substances in Europe. The text of the regulation distinguishes between deliberate use of SCCP, which is banned, and unintentional introduction of contaminants as a consequence of industrial processes, which is permitted. Small amounts of SCCPs are always formed in the production of medium-chain chloroparaffins (MCCP). Hitherto there has been a lack of clarity as to the SCCP concentration up to which one can talk of contamination and the concentration at which deliberate use can be assumed. The new regulation EU 2015/2030 dispels uncertainties regarding the marketability of products.

An SCCP threshold of 10,000 mg/kg (1.0 %) applies for placing on the market of mixtures such as MCCP-containing plasticizers. For products such as footwear the threshold was set at 1,500 mg/kg (0.15 %).

As long as no threshold had been defined, PFI recommended a content of 1000 mg/kg (0.1 %) as an upper limit for unintentionally introduced contaminants. Manufacturers and importers who have hitherto applied this threshold therefore already comply with the newly published EU threshold. Companies which have so far been working with threshold values in excess of 1,500 mg/kg will have to correct their internal standards as soon as possible because this regulation came into force 20 days after its publication on November 14, 2015. Publication of the new regulation means that the regulatory authorities now also have an official threshold value above which products can be declared non-compliant and have to be withdrawn from the market.

Further information:

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