GS Mark: Modified Demands Relating to PAH

In December 2013, Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation was amended to include a ban on eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in products. Meanwhile, the PAH-relevant test requirements for awarding the GS Mark have also come under scrutiny and been revised The new PAH document was published on 4 August 2014 and supersedes the formerly valid document ZEK 01.4-08, which expires on 30 June 2015. The new document was issued by the German Committee for Product Safety (Ausschuss für Produktsicherheit – AfPS) and bears the name "AfPS GS 2014:01 PAK".

The AfPS document gives transition times and interim rulings for the period during which the two documents coexist. They set out procedures for new and existing GS certificates. Ongoing procedures for awarding the GS Mark which are expected or planned to be concluded after 1 July 2015 already have to meet the new test requirements, even if the tests are carried out prior to 1 July 2015. Existing certificates retain their validity and are checked during control measures.

What's New?

The analytical test is performed in exactly the same way as given in the older ZEK document, but the description of the risk assessment and the definition of the materials to be tested have been improved.

The new document lists more stringent maximum PAH contents which have been adapted to current legislation. Whereas an individual limit value was given only for benzo[a]pyrene and the sum of all 18 PAH was regulated in the ZEK document, the new document now gives individual limit values for the eight so-called EU-PAH and for naphthalene. Moreover, the limit values for the sum of all 18 PAH were modified. In addition to adjustment of the limit values, the descriptions of the three categories have been modified in part and separate limit values assigned for categories 2 and 3 for products which have to comply with the "Toy Directive" and for all other products.

The new AfPS document is accessible via the following link:
http://www.baua.de/de/Produktsicherheit/Marktueberwachung/pdf/AfPS-GS-2014-01-PAK.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=4

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