

ECPI members working together on DEHP under REACH



POLYNT

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DEHP & REACH

The Candidate List



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COMMITTED TO THE SCIENCE OF SAFETY

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As expected, the plasticiser Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) has been included on the first Candidate List of substances that will eventually have to undergo authorisation for use in Europe.

The earliest that such authorisation for use will be required is likely to be 2013.

However, based on the fact that EU scientists have already agreed that DEHP is not a risk to human health or the environment in any of the current uses in which it is legally allowed, the European producers of DEHP are confident that such authorisation will be granted.

In the meantime, DEHP can continue to be used with confidence.

The only difference is that any supplier of an article containing more than 0.1% weight by weight (w/w) DEHP now has an obligation to provide information to the recipient of that article. As a minimum, recipients – who can be anyone in the supply chain from a distributors and retailers to professional end users – need to be told that the article contains DEHP.

This leaflet contains a summary of the REACH authorisation process and information designed to help you meet your obligations as a DEHP user.

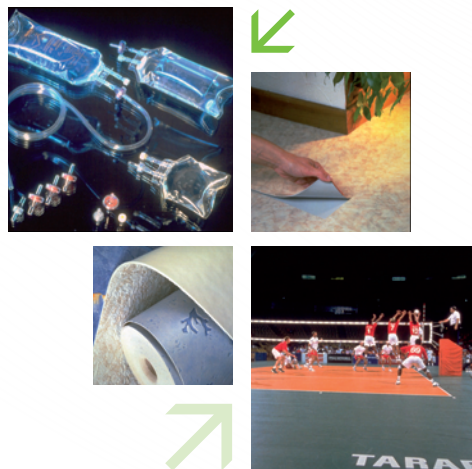
WHAT IS AUTHORISATION?

Authorisation is the part of the new European chemicals legislation, REACH, which requires certain substances to be “authorised” for production, marketing and use in the EU. The first substances to go through the process will require such “authorisation” by 2013.

Substances first have to be nominated for inclusion on what is known as the “Candidate List” by a national government or the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). DEHP was nominated by Sweden.

From the Candidate List, a further “priority list” of substances will be drawn up and dates set by which they must be granted authorisation in order to remain on the market. Such authorisation will normally be granted if the producer and /or user can demonstrate that any risks are adequately controlled. In the case of DEHP this has already been demonstrated by the comprehensive EU Risk Assessment.

Such authorisation will be granted for a pre-determined period (set on a case-by-case basis) after which it will be subject to review.



WHY HAS DEHP BEEN INCLUDED ON THE CANDIDATE LIST?

DEHP has been included on the “candidate list” due to its classification in the EU as a reproductive toxicant. This does not mean it is unsafe to use, it simply refers to the fact that some adverse reproductive effects have been seen during studies on rats and mice. However, as these effects were only seen at levels of exposure many times greater than would normally be experienced by humans, its use in most everyday items does not pose a health risk.

WHO WILL HAVE TO SEEK AUTHORISATION FOR THE USE OF DEHP?

Nobody has to seek authorisation yet. The first priority list of substances to undergo authorisation will be chosen from the Candidate List and will be announced by June 2009. The first date by which authorisation will be needed is likely to be 2013.

For most high-volume uses, the producers of DEHP will seek authorisation on behalf of their customers. However, if a producer or importer does not choose to seek authorisation for a particular use, the downstream user may apply for authorisation himself. Those DEHP producers who are members of the European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI) have already committed to register DEHP under REACH and they will be supporting most uses.

WHAT ARE MY OBLIGATIONS IN THE MEANTIME AS A USER OF DEHP?

DEHP can continue to be used with confidence and in the knowledge that it continues to provide the same excellent plasticising qualities that it has done for more than 50 years.

The only difference is that any supplier of an article containing more than 0.1% weight by weight (w/w) DEHP now has an obligation to provide information to the recipient of that article to allow safe use of that article. As a minimum, recipients – who can be anyone in the supply chain from distributors and retailers to professional end users – need to be told that the article contains DEHP.

Further down the supply chain, the retailer also has an obligation to provide the same information to a consumer within 45 days of the information being requested.

The requirement to provide information within the supply chain applies equally to anyone importing articles containing more than 0.1% DEHP. From June 2011 these importers will also be obliged to inform ECHA if they are importing articles containing DEHP in quantities of more than one ton per annum.

The obligation to communicate information to recipients of articles applied from the moment that DEHP and the other Candidate List substances appeared on the ECHA website. It also applies to any articles produced or imported before that date and held in stock at a supplier premises.

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I PROVIDE TO THE RECIPIENTS OF MY ARTICLES THAT CONTAIN DEHP?

The legal requirement under Article 33.1 of REACH requires that you provide, as a minimum, the name of any substances that appear on the Candidate List.

For DEHP we are not recommending that it is necessary to provide any specific information “to allow safe use of the article” as all currently legal uses are considered safe. However, ECPI has made available a fact sheet which is primarily for consumers but which you may also find useful for your own customers. As well as explaining that DEHP is safe to use, it also explains what it is and why it is used. The leaflet can be downloaded from the DEHP Information Centre in various European languages.

WHERE DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Please go to the DEHP Information Centre website at www.dehp-facts.com which provides more detailed and up to date information.