

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

NO. 042/11 MARCH 2011

US DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BANS CERTAIN CHEMICALS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

In January 2011, the Washington District of Columbia approved a new law to regulate bisphenol A (BPA), polybrominated diphenyl ether flame retardants (PBDEs), and perchloroethylene in certain consumer products. The new law also amends the Phosphate Soaps and Detergent Restriction Act of 1985 to reduce the percentage of phosphorus permitted in cleaning agents used for dishwashers from 8.7% to 0.5%. The new Act takes effect on July 1, 2011.



On January 12, 2011, the Mayor of District of Columbia signed legislation B18-0521 '[Human and Environmental Health Protection Act of 2010](#)' into law. The new law regulates the manufacture and sale of products containing BPA, PBDEs, perchloroethylene in dry cleaning and reduces the permitted quantity of phosphorus in cleaning agents used for dishwashers. Highlights of the new Act A18-0680 including some exemptions are summarised in Table1 and below.

Table 1

SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Bisphenol A (BPA)	Empty bottle, cup, or other container designed or intended to be filled with food or liquid for consumption for children under the age of 4	Prohibited	July 1, 2011
	Medically essential products in facilities licensed to provide medical care	may be used if approved by Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	

(To be cont'd)

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SUBSTANCE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Deca-BDE	Mattress or mattress pad	Prohibited	January 1, 2013
	Upholstered furniture intended for indoor use in home or other residential occupancy	Prohibited	January 1, 2013
	Television, monitor, or computer that has a plastic housing	Prohibited	January 1, 2013
	Product	Prohibited	January 1, 2014
Octa-BDE	Product	Prohibited	January 1, 2013
Penta-BDE	Product	Prohibited	January 1, 2013
Perchloroethylene	Installation of machine designed to use perchloroethylene as a cleaning agent for clothes or other fabrics	Prohibited	January 1, 2014
	Cleaning agent for clothes or other fabrics	Prohibited	January 1, 2029

After January 1, 2013, the restriction of Deca-BDE does not apply to the following:-

- Transportation vehicles or products or parts for use in transportation vehicles or transportation equipment
- Products or equipment used in industrial or manufacturing processes

- Products for use in a medical context, including a hospital, treatment facility, or nursing home or
- Electronic wiring and cable used for power transmission

SGS will follow-up and inform about developments on regulations or policies in consumer products as a complimentary service.

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for BPA, brominated flame retardants other restricted substances in consumer products for the US and other international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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