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A GLANCE INTO THE FUTURE OF CADMIUM RESTRICTIONS UNDER REACH

Regulation EC 1907/2006 of the European Community on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemical substances (REACH) deals also with restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain dangerous substances, preparations and articles in its Annex XVII.

Cadmium and its compounds are currently regulated under Annex XVII, number 23 with a variety of bans for certain applications or at least limitations to content of 100 mg/kg. A recent assessment suggest more bans but recommend also to slacken the cadmium limit for certain applications¹.

A UK based consultancy firm prepared a report for the European Commission on the socio economic impact regarding a possible update of the restrictions on marketing and use of cadmium currently given in REACH, Annex XVII,. A scientific assessment by the EU's Joint Research Centre was used as a basis for the report in connection with the relevant REACH regulations. The below information is a brief summary of the original report and interested readers are referred to the source text ² for further details.

The following prohibitions have been suggested for cadmium (see following page)



¹ [Report for European Commission recommends to ban use of cadmium in brazing alloys and jewellery and to ease restriction of use of cadmium in PVC](#)

² http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/files/markrestr/study_cadmium_jan10_en.pdf

- New ban for use in brazing alloys with the exception of aerospace and defense applications
- New ban for use in jewelry as solder, alloy or coating

It is acknowledged that the ban in jewelry may be hard to enforce and create more obstacles for the industry whereas the benefit for consumer protection is questionable.

On the other hand the report introduced the suggestion to make less strict the limit for some applications of cadmium in consideration of the negative impact of the current cadmium restrictions on the recycling of PVC waste.

The following suggestions on limits have been made for specific uses:

- New limit of 1000 mg/kg for cadmium in polyvinylchloride (PVC) non-pressure pipes and round cable ducts
- Maintain limit of 100 mg/kg for cadmium in PVC for flexible roofing
- Lift any restrictions for cadmium in PVC profiles and square cable ducts

It is important to notice that above mentioned changes to the use of cadmium are currently only proposals and not already implemented in REACH Annex XVII. The European Commission is expected to release an impact assessment by June 2010 and a proposal to amend the current cadmium restrictions under the REACH Annex XVII by the end of 2010.

SGS will follow up and inform you about exemption surveillance analysis in consumer products as a complementary service. We can help you to control the risks. Our REACH expertise combined with consultancy services and experience in consumer product supply chains provides a central point of contact for global solutions. If you would like to learn more about how SGS can support your REACH compliance activities please contact us:

<mailto:reach@sgs.com> or visit www.sgs.com/reach.

FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competences Support Centre: gpsc@sgs.com

REACH Global Competences Support Centre: Tel: +41 (22) 739 91 61 or reach@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong. Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia – Perth. Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London – UK. Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey. Tel: +90 212 368 40 00 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA. Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

www.sgs.com/cts Global Competences Support Centre: gpsc@sgs.com

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