

Norway Notified WTO on Proposal to Restrict Certain Hazardous Substances in Consumer Products

In June 2007, the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority notified the World Trade Organisation (WTO) on proposals on the restriction to produce, import, export or sell consumer products that contain specific substances when the content of the substance in the product's homogeneous component parts are greater or equal to specified limiting values.

The proposed regulation will concern 18 specified hazardous substances / groups of substances in consumer products in the Norwegian Product Regulations. The proposed substances are high-priority hazardous substances which are persistent, bioaccumulative and/or toxic, e.g. reprotoxic.

The regulation does not apply to food, tobacco, food packaging, fertiliser and medical equipment, or means of transport, permanently installed equipment in means of transport, tyres and similar accessories.

The Table below summarises some important dates on the proposed regulation:

Date	Remark
10 August 2007	Final date for Comments
15 December 2007	Proposed date of Adoption
1 January 2008	Proposed date of Entry into Force

The Table below summarises the substances and their limit values under the proposed regulation:

Item	Substance Group	Substance Name	CAS Number	Limit Value (% by Weight)
1	Brominated Flame Retardant	HBCDD	25637-99-4 3194-55-6	0.1
		TBBPA	79-94-7	1
2	Chlorinated Paraffins	Medium-chained chlorinated paraffins, C ₁₄ - C ₁₇ , MCCP	85535-85-9	0.1
3	Metals and Metallic Compounds	Arsenic and arsenic compounds		0.01
		Lead and lead compounds		0.01
		Cadmium and cadmium compounds		0.01
4	Organotin Compounds	Tributyltin compounds (TBT)		0.001 in articles
		Triphenyltin compounds (TPT)		0.001 in articles
5	Fragrance Substances	Musk Xylene	81-15-2	0.05
		Musk Ketone	81-14-1	0.05

Item	Substance Group	Substance Name	CAS Number	Limit Value (% by Weight)
6	Perfluorinated Compounds	Perfluorooctyl Acid (PFOA) and individual salts and esters of PFOA	335-67-1 3825-26-1 335-95-5 2395-00-8 335-93-3 335-66-0 376-27-2 3108-24-5	0.005 For textiles and other coated materials (1 mg / m ²)
7	Surfactants	DTDMAC	68783-78-8	0.1 (Total)
		DODMAC / DSDMAC	107-64-2	
		DHTDMAC	61789-80-8	
8	Other substances	Bisphenol-A	80-05-7	Freely Available substance
				0.005 (When Entry into Force)
				0.0025 (3 Years after Entry into Force)
		Diethylhexyl Phthalate (DEHP)	117-81-7	0.1
		Pentachlorophenol (PCP)	87-86-5	0.1
		Triclosan	3380-34-5	0.001

Key

HBCDD: Hexabromocyclododecane

TBBPA: Tetrabromobisphenol A

DTDMAC: Ditalow dimethylammonium chloride

DODMAC: Di-n-octadecyldimethylammonium chloride

DSDMAC: Distearyl dimethylammonium chloride

DHTDMAC: Di-(hydrogenated tallow) dimethylammonium chloride

For substances utilised as biocides and/or pesticides, the regulations in the Norwegian Biocide Regulations and the Norwegian Regulations relating to Herbicides will apply.

There are some exemptions under the proposal either because there are no alternatives, these alternatives would be very costly, or the substance is already regulated under the European Economic Area (EEA) regulations. Some substances that are regulated under the Norwegian Cosmetics Regulations will also be exempted. The environmental protection authorities will, at a later date, assess whether or not there is a need and opportunity for even stricter regulation of certain substances in cosmetics on the basis of environmental considerations.

SGS are committed to inform as new developments occurs.

Throughout their global network of laboratories, SGS can offer a range of analytical testing and consultancy services for restricted substances in consumer products. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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