

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

NO. 093/14 MAY 2014

CALIFORNIA PROP 65 REFORMULATION OF PHTHALATES IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

[Proposition 65](#) (Prop 65) is the 'Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986', a ballot initiative passed overwhelmingly by California residents in 1986. Since its enactment, there have been numerous lawsuits which resulted in the reduction of carcinogenic and reproductive chemicals by reformulations of consumer products containing such chemicals.

Prop 65 is now over 25 years old and has been effective in reducing exposures to toxic chemicals. Of the 850 or so listed chemicals, lead-containing consumer products have been consistently targeted over the years. In the last few years, [phthalates](#) have also been consistently targeted.

On 20 December 2013, diisononyl phthalate (DINP) was added onto the [Prop 65](#) list of chemicals as a chemical known to the state of California to cause cancer. Businesses have a 12 month grace period until 20 December 2014 to provide a 'CLEAR AND REASONABLE WARNING' before knowingly and intentionally exposing anyone to DINP.

In the latter half of 2013, Prop 65 settlements have been reached for the

reformulation of phthalates in a variety of products, including but not limited to: baseballs, blood pressure kits, crisper liners, rug, seat cushion, soft grip jar opener, vinyl / PVC benches, Vinyl / PVC ID holders, footwear (adult and children's), sunglasses, sunglass nose-pads and storage boxes / bins.

Highlights of these settlements for phthalates are summarised in Table 1.

TABLE 1.

ITEM	SUBSTANCE	PRODUCT	REFORMULATION
1	DEHP	Baseballs	≤ 1000 ppm
2	DEHP	Blood pressure kits	≤ 1000 ppm
3	DEHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Claw and magnet pick up toolsCrimping ToolsInspection Tools	≤ 1000 ppm
4	DEHP	Crisper liners	≤ 1000 ppm
5	DEHP	Exercise equipment with vinyl / PVC seats	< 1000 ppm
6	DEHP	Pet care hand tools and / or grooming tools with vinyl grips	≤ 1000 ppm
7	DEHP	Pillows with vinyl / PVC coverings or other components	≤ 1000 ppm

8	DEHP	Polymer grip pads	≤ 1000 ppm
9	DEHP	Rugs	≤ 1000 ppm
10	DEHP	Seat Cushions	< 100 ppm
11	DEHP	Shelf liners	≤ 1000 ppm
12	DEHP	Soft grip jar openers	≤ 1000 ppm
13	DEHP	Stripper/ crimper / cutting tools	≤ 1000 ppm
14	DEHP	Tubing	≤ 1000 ppm
15	DEHP	Turkey lifters	≤ 1000 ppm
16	DEHP	Vinyl / PVC benches	≤ 1000 ppm
17	DEHP	Vinyl / PVC humidors	≤ 1000 ppm otherwise warning must be provided
18	DEHP	Vinyl / PVC ID holders	≤ 1000 ppm
19	Phthalates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath mats • Children's sandals • Children's slippers • Footwear • Sandals 	Bath mats ≤ 1000 ppm DEHP Footwear, children's slippers, children's sandals and sandals ≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP, DBP and DNHP
20	Phthalates	Sunglass nose pads	≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP and DBP
21	Phthalates	Sunglasses	≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP and DBP
22	Phthalates	Vinyl / PVC media cases	≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP, BBP and DBP
23	Phthalates	Vinyl / PVC scrapbook albums	≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP, BBP and DBP
24	Phthalates	Vinyl / PVC storage boxes / bins	≤ 1000 ppm each of DEHP, BBP and DBP

Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for phthalates and other restricted substances in consumer products for Prop 65 and international markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.



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