

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DANISH PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT PHTHALATES

A report prepared by Denmark to restrict 4 phthalates was published by the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) on 19 September 2011¹. This report proposes the restriction of 4 phthalates DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP in articles intended for indoor use and products that may come into direct contact with the skin or mucous membranes. The ECHA encourages interested parties to submit comments by 16 December 2011 for this 6-month public consultation exercise.

In May 2011, we informed you that Denmark was introducing a proposal to ban 4 phthalates in certain consumer products².

On 19 September 2011, the ECHA published the Danish proposal to restrict DEHP (bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate), BBP (benzylbutyl phthalate), DBP (dibutyl phthalate) and DIBP (Diisobutyl phthalate) in articles for indoor use and articles that may come into direct contact with the skin or mucous membranes. The proposal would amend the REACH Regulation. Under the proposal, the limit for each of the 4 phthalates is no more than 0.1% in any plasticised material. The report also contains a non-exhaustive list of products that would be restricted or exempted. Highlights of the report are summarised in Table 1

TABLE 1.

PHTHALATE	SCOPE	REQUIREMENT	REMARK
DEHP DBP BBP DIBP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Articles intended for use indoorsArticles that may come into direct contact with the skin or mucous	≤ 0.1 % in plasticised material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ECHA encourages comments by 16 December 2011Public consultation concludes on 16 March 2012



¹ [Public Consultation on a Report Proposing Restrictions for Four Phthalates, News Alert, ECHA, 19 September 2011](#)
[ANNEX XV Restriction Report, Proposal for a Restriction, DEHP, DBP, BBP and DIBP, 12 August 2011](#)

² [Safeguards 088/11](#)

A non-exhaustive list of products that would be subject to the ban includes:

- Childcare articles (for DIBP)
- Interiors of cars, trains, ships, boats, aircrafts etc
- Wall covering and flooring;
- Insulation on wires used indoors
- Insulation on cables used indoors in unsealed applications;
- Electric and electronic equipment
- Coated fabric and film/sheets used for furniture
- Coated fabric and film/sheets used for bags and briefcases/suitcases and similar items
- Coated fabrics and film/sheets used for tablecloth, curtains, shower curtains and similar items
- Carpet tiles/squares produced with foam as back cover
- Water mattresses and air mattresses
- Wallpaper/tapestry
- Footwear
- Textiles
- Bathing equipment (swim jackets, wings, belts and pools - inflatable and others);
- Erasers
- Balance balls for playing (not toys) and physical exercises;
- Sex toys

A non-exhaustive list of products that would be exempted includes:

- Insulation on wires and cables used outdoors
- Large-scale stationary industrial tools
- Roofing material
- Car undercoating and
- Garden tools which only have phthalates contained in parts other than handles.

The phthalates DEHP, BBP, DBP and DIBP are a class of chemicals used primarily as plasticisers and are widely used in PVC and other polymeric applications. According to the report, these substances raised concerns regarding reproductive and developmental disorders in humans.



The phthalates DEHP, DBP and BBP are in the list of substances subject to authorization (Annex XIV) and are also restricted in plasticised materials in toys and childcare articles under ANNEX XVII of REACH. DIBP is included in ECHA's second recommendation of substances to be included in that list.

SGS is committed to inform interested parties as developments on regulations or policies in consumer products as a complimentary service.

Throughout our global network, we can provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for restricted substances for the EU and international markets. Do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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