

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

CONSUMER PRODUCTS

NO. 187/14 NOVEMBER 2014

GERMANY AMENDS PAH SPECIFICATIONS UNDER GS-MARK

Germany has recently published new specifications for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) under the voluntary GS-Mark. The new requirements will take effect on 1 July 2015.

In November 2011, the document ZEK 01.4-08 was published in the Zentralstelle der Länder für Sicherheitstechnik (ZLS) website to expand the number of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) from 16 substances to 18 substances¹.

In August 2014, the German Committee on Product Safety (Ausschuss für Produktsicherheit, AfPS) issued new specifications for PAHs under the voluntary Geprüfte Sicherheit Mark (GS-Mark (Safety Tested)). The new specifications were published by the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin, BAuA) and were made available in the ZLS website in September 2014². The new AfPS document will replace ZEK 01.4-08 by 1 July 2015 with regard to GS mark certification.

Whereas the analytical test conditions remain largely untouched, the requirements are an entirely new set of specifications for PAHs; with limits strengthened for products under Category 2 and 3. The two notable changes are:

- The products under Category 2 and 3 are now differentiated into defined requirements for
 - 1) Toys under the Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC (TSD) and;
 - 2) Other products according to the General Product Safety Law (ProdSG).
- The deletion of the alternative migration approach for materials exceeding the limits under Category 1 but within the limits under Category 2.

Highlights of the new specifications are summarised in Table 1.



¹ [SGS-Safeguard 210/11](#)

² [Ausschuss für Produktsicherheit, GS-Spezifikation](#)

TABLE 1.

PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (AFPS) EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT OF POLYCYCLIC AROMATIC HYDROCARBONS (PAHS) IN THE RECOGNITION OF THE GS MARK 4 AUGUST 2014						
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon (PAH)	Category 1	Category 2		Category 3		Effective Date
	Materials intended to be placed in the mouth or toys with intended prolonged skin contact (> 30 seconds) (mg/kg)	Materials not falling under Category 1, with foreseeable skin contact longer than 30 seconds (long term) or frequent short-term skin contact)		Materials not falling under Category 1 or 2, with foreseeable skin contact less than 30 seconds (short-term skin contact)		
		Toys (TSD) (mg/kg)	Other products according to ProdSG (mg/kg)	Toys (TSD) (mg/kg)	Other products according to ProdSG (mg/kg)	
Benzo[a]pyrene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	1 July 2015
Benzo[e]pyrene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Benzo[a]anthracene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Benzo[b]fluoranthene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Benzo[j]fluoranthene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Benzo[k]fluoranthene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Chrysene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Benzo[g,h,i]perylene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1	
Acenaphthylene	< 1 (sum)	< 5 (sum)	< 10 (sum)	< 20 (sum)	< 50 (sum)	
Acenaphthene						
Anthracene						
Fluorene						
Fluoranthene						
Phenanthrene						
Pyrene						
Naphthalene	< 1	< 2		< 10		
Sum of 18 PAHs	< 1	< 5	< 10	< 20	< 50	



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



FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre:
gcsc@sgs.com

HK– Hingwo Tsang Tel: +852 2774 7420 or
Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com

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

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

Europe – London – UK.
Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860
gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

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

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

www.sgs.com/cgnr

© SGS Group Management SA – 2014– All rights reserved
- SGS is a registered trademark of SGS Group Management SA. This is a publication of SGS, except for 3rd parties' contents submitted or licensed for use by SGS. SGS neither endorses nor disapproves said 3rd parties contents. This publication is intended to provide technical information and shall not be considered an exhaustive treatment of any subject treated. It is strictly educational and does not replace any legal requirements or applicable regulations. It is not intended to constitute consulting or professional advice. The information contained herein is provided "as is" and SGS does not warrant that it will be error-free or will meet any particular criteria of performance or quality. Do not quote or refer any information herein without SGS's prior written consent.