

SAFEGUARDS

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MARKET SURVEILLANCE ON ARTIFICIAL LEATHER PRODUCTS CONTAINING SCCPS

Recently there has been a significant rise in the activity of the Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Dangerous Products (RAPEX) recalls in Sweden that focus on artificial leather products involving high concentrations of short chained chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs)¹. The voluntary withdrawal of certain products from the market has aroused industry attention on application concerns and public awareness of the safety problems.

Short-chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs) are used as flame-retardants, chemical and water resistant agents in rubber and textiles, as an agent in leather processing and as plasticizers in paints and coatings. SCCPs are highly toxic to aquatic organisms, do not readily break down in the environment and have a high potential to accumulate in living organisms.

The release of SCCPs to the environment happens primarily from formulation and use, occurring mainly during production, storage, transportation, and usage. It is believed that the major sources of release of SCCPs in the textile industry are from formulation and manufacturing of products containing SCCPs, such as flame retardant agents in plastic materials and finishing agents for leather and textiles. According to the recall reports, handbags, purses, toiletry bags, wallet cases etc made from artificial leather containing SCCPs were voluntarily withdrawn from the market.

SCCPs are classified as persistent, toxic and bioaccumulative (PTB). Because of their persistence, bioaccumulation, potential for long-range environmental transport and toxicity, they are classified as persistent organic pollutants (POPs). The use of POPs are restricted/ prohibited in articles under Regulation 519/2012 on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs Regulation). Also, SCCPs are listed on the European Candidate list of Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC).



¹ [Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Dangerous Products \(RAPEX\)](#)

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