

SAFE GUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

HARDLINES, SOFTLINES, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

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PROHIBITION OF DIMETHYLFUMARATE (DMF) - IMPACT ON THE GERMAN GS-MARK

Products that contain the biocide DMF are not allowed to be placed into circulation or on the market according to the decision of 2009/251/EC. As a consequence the German committee for technical equipment and consumer products (AtAV) enforces a technical specification related to the German GS-Mark.

FOR THE GS-MARK THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE WILL APPLY

The GS certification body points out the prohibition of DMF for GS-Mark to the applicant. Non existence of DMF in the product shall be proven and the documentation on free DMF shall be enclosed in the certification documents. In case the suspicion exists that raw materials containing DMF have been applied for the products the proof about the free DMF must be demanded and documented. Priority products for inclusion of DMF in the scope of the GS-Mark are leather furniture and personal protective equipment (safety footwear or gloves) since those products may contain DMF in the raw materials.

THE GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT DMF

According to Commission Decision 2009/251/EC, furniture and footwear in several EU Member States, have been identified as the cause of consumer health problems. The source of such problems was discovered, by clinical tests as being DMF. This substance is an illegitimate biocide that prevents mould on leather goods during storage or transport in humid climates. DMF is often contained in little pouches fixed inside the furniture or added to footwear boxes. As it evaporates, it impregnates the product and thus comes into direct contact with consumers or penetrating through clothing onto their skin. The reactions may be painful skin contact dermatitis, itching, irritation, redness and burns; in some cases breathing difficulties. (see our previous SafeGuards [030/09](#), [064/09](#), [098/08](#), [083/08](#)).



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SCOPE AND LIMIT VALUE

Commission Decision 2009/251/EC applies to all goods intended for consumers or likely to be used by them even if not intended for them. As of 1 May 2009 Member States shall ensure that products containing DMF are prohibited from being placed or made available on the market. And Member States will have to ensure that products containing DMF and already placed or made available on the market are withdrawn from the market and recalled from consumers, and that consumers are adequately warned of the risk posed by such products.

In relation to the aforementioned ban, a "product containing DMF" means any product or part of a product where either the presence of DMF is declared, such as on one or more pouches, or the concentration of DMF is greater than 0.1 mg/kg of the weight of the product or part of the product.

SUPPORT FROM SGS

SGS helps you to control the risk. We have established the mandatory test procedures in our global laboratory network in order to provide test results acceptable to GS certification bodies.

Information Source :

[Commission Decision 2009/251/EC](#)
and
<http://www.zls-muenchen.de/>

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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE