EU BANS CERTAIN ORGANOTIN COMPOUNDS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The European Union has officially banned the use of certain Organotin Compounds in consumer products. The products with concentrations greater than 0.1% by weight shall not be placed on the market.

On 4 June 2009, a new European Commission Decision 2009/425/EC was published in the EU Official Journal 1. The usage of Tri-substituted organostannic compounds such as Tributyltin (TBT) compounds and Triphenyltin (TPT) compounds, Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds and Dioctyltin (DOT) compounds in consumer products are governed by this Decision.

From 1 July 2010, an article or a part of the article containing Tri-substituted organostannic compounds such as tributyltin (TBT) and triphenyltin (TPT) in a concentration of greater than 0.1% by weight of tin is prohibited from being placed on the market.

From 1 January 2012, Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds with a concentration of greater than 0.1% by weight of tin shall not be used in mixtures and articles for supply to the general public. Dioctyltin (DOT) compounds in an article shall not be in a concentration greater than 0.1% by weight of tin.

Highlights in the scope of Organotin compounds from the Decision 2009/425/EC are summarized in the Table below.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBSTANCE</th>
<th>SCOPE</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
<th>EFFECTIVE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tri-substituted organostannic compounds such as Tributyltin (TBT) compounds and Triphenyltin (TPT) compounds</td>
<td>Article or Part of an article</td>
<td>≤0.1 %</td>
<td>1 July 2010</td>
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| Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds | 1. Mixture  
2. Article or Part of an article (Except Food contact materials) | ≤0.1 % | 1 January 2012 |
| Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds | 1. One-component and two-component room temperature vulcanisation sealants (RTV-1 and RTV-2 sealants) and adhesives  
2. Paints and coatings containing DBT compounds as catalysts when applied on articles  
3. Soft polyvinyl chloride (PVC) profiles whether by themselves or coextruded with hard PVC  
4. Fabrics coated with PVC containing DBT compounds as stabilisers when intended for indoor applications  
5. Outdoor rainwater pipes, gutters and fittings, as well as covering material for roofing and façades | ≤0.1 % | 1 January 2015 |
| Dioctyltin (DOT) compounds | 1. Textile articles intended to come into contact with the skin  
2. Gloves  
3. Footwear or part of footwear intended to come into contact with the skin  
4. Wall and floor coverings  
5. Childcare articles  
6. Female hygiene products  
7. Nappies  
8. Two-component room temperature vulcanisation moulding kits (RTV-2 moulding kits) | ≤0.1 % | 1 January 2012 |

SGS is committed to inform our partners and customers as development on international legislation occurs. Throughout our global network of laboratories, we are able to provide a range of services, including analytical testing and consultancy for Organotin compounds in a wide range of consumer products for the EU and worldwide markets. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

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