

The State of Washington Bans the use of PBDEs in Consumer Products

The Governor of the State of Washington in the US recently signed the Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1024 into Law to ban the use of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) in consumer products.

Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers (PBDEs) have been used extensively as flame retardants in a large number of common household products for the last thirty years. Studies on animals revealed that PBDEs can impact the developing brain, affecting behaviour and learning after birth and into adulthood, making exposure to fetuses and children a particular concern. It is important to phase out their use in common household products provided that effective flame retardants that are safer and technically feasible are available at a reasonable cost.

After 1 January, 2008, no person may manufacture, knowingly sell, offer for sale, or distribute for use inedible products containing PBDEs. This also includes mattresses containing commercial Deca-BDE.

Their prohibition is exempted in the following:-

- 1) Products containing Deca-BDEs
- 2) Used transportation vehicle manufactured before 1 January 2008 with component parts containing PBDEs
- 3) Used transportation vehicle parts or new transportation vehicle parts manufactured before 1 January 2008, that contain PBDEs
- 4) Equipment containing PBDEs and used primarily for military or federally funded space program applications

5) New raw material or component part used in a transportation vehicle with component parts, including original spare parts, containing Deca-BDE.

- 6) Commercial Deca-BDE in transportation equipment
- 7) Product containing PBDEs that has been previously owned, purchased, or sold in commerce, provided it was manufactured before the effective date of prohibition
- 8) New product or product component consisting of recycled or used materials containing Deca-BDE
- 9) New carpet cushion made from recycled foam containing less than 0.1% Penta-BDE
- 10) Medical devices

The prohibition of Deca-BDE in residential upholstered furniture, television or computer that has an electronic enclosure may not take effect until a safer and technically feasible alternative is available. If the report on 31 December, 2008, identifies the alternative meeting the applicable fire safety standards, then prohibition will be effective on 1 January 2011.

A manufacturer knowingly produces, sells, or distributes a prohibited product shall recall the product and may be subjected to civil penalties.

Throughout their global network of laboratories, SGS can offer a range of analytical testing and consultancy services for polybrominated flame retardants. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

For enquiries:

Global Competences Support Centre, gcsc@sgs.com

HK – HingWo Tsang

☎ + 852 2774 7420 or ✉ HingWo.Tsang@sgs.com

US – Piyush SHAH

☎ + 973 575 5252 or ✉ Piyush.Shah@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong Tel: +852 2334 4481 Fax: +852 2144 7001 ✉ mktg.hk@sgs.com

Australasia – Perth Tel: +61 (0) 3 9790 3418 Fax: +61 (0) 3 9701 0988 ✉ au.cts@sgs.com

Europe – London, UK Tel: +44(0) 20 8991 3410 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8991 3417 ✉ gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey, Tel: +90 212 225 0024 Fax: +90 212 296 47 82 ✉ sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA, Tel: +1 973 575 5252 Fax: +1 973 575 1193 ✉ Marketing.CTS.US@sgs.com

Web: www.sgs.com Global Competences Support Centre: ✉ gcsc@sgs.com

If you wish to unsubscribe to this technical bulletin, go here: [Unsubscribe](#)

© 2007 SGS. All rights reserved. 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.