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EU EXPANDS LIST OF PERSISTENT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS (POPS)

The list of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) was recently expanded to include, amongst others, short chain chlorinated paraffins (SCCPs). The scope of restriction for SCCPs is broader than that under ANNEX VII of REACH. Articles manufactured from 11 July 2012 are prohibited to contain SCCPs; a stricter criteria for articles relative to SCCPs as a substance of very high concern (SVHC) on the Candidate List under REACH. The regulation enters into force on 10 July 2012.

On 20 June 2012, Regulation (EU) 519/2012 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union to expand the number of substances under POPs¹. The extended list of substances includes, amongst others, polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs) and SCCPs.

Under the new law, SCCPs are restricted in constituents of substances or mixtures as well as in articles; a scope broader than that under ANNEX XVII of REACH. The new law also prohibits articles containing SCCPs if such articles are manufactured from 11 July 2012. Until that date, articles with more than 0.1% SCCPs will still need to be communicated along the supply chain and notified to the European Chemical Agency if also more than 1 tonne per year as part of the SVHC regulations in REACH. The usage of



SCCPs is allowed as flame retardants in limited specific applications. Highlights on SCCPs in the new law and a comparison with specific provisions under REACH are summarised in Table 1.

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 519/2012](#)

TABLE 1.

| | SHORT CHAIN CHLORINATED PARAFFINS (SCCPs) | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| Parameter | Regulation (EU) 519/2012 (POPs) | Regulation (EC) 552/2009 (ANNEX XVII, REACH) ² | SVHC on Candidate List (Article 33, REACH) ³ |
| Scope and requirement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 1% (constituent of substance or mixture) Flame retardant in dam sealants and rubber in conveyor belts in mining (report to Commission no later than 2015 and every 4 years thereafter on progress made for elimination) Article manufactured before 11 July 2012 allowed to be placed on market until 10 Jan 2013 Article in use before 11 July 2012 allowed to remain on market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤1% (constituent of substance and mixture for metalworking and fat liquoring of leather) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1% per article otherwise sufficient information to recipient Sufficient information to general public within 45 days upon request |
| Effective Date | 10 July 2012 (date of entry into force) | June 2009 | October 2008 (date of inclusion) |

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



² [Regulation \(EC\) 552/2009](#)

³ [Corrigendum to Regulation \(EC\) 1907/2006](#)

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