

SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

SOFTLINES

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EU REACH - EXPANSION OF RESTRICTED SUBSTANCES INCLUDING LEAD IN JEWELLERY

A number of amendments were recently made to the scope and restricted substances under ANNEX XVII of REACH. The amendments included, amongst others, an expansion of the prohibition of mercury in devices for professional use and a new restriction for lead in jewellery. The effective date is 9 October 2012 for lead in jewellery and 10 October 2017 for phenylmercury compounds.



On 18-19 September 2012, the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) published four amendments to ANNEX XVII of REACH¹. These amendments included:

- an expansion of scope to mercury under entry 18a
- a revision to the list of synthetic polymers for cadmium under entry 23
- a new entry 62 to prohibit 5 phenylmercury compounds (reported as mercury)
- a new entry 63 to restrict lead and lead compounds in jewellery

Highlights of the new amendments are summarised in Table 1.

¹ [Regulation \(EU\) 836/2012](#)
[Regulation \(EU\) 835/2012](#)
[Regulation \(EU\) 848/2012](#)
[Regulation \(EU\) 847/2012](#)

TABLE 1.

SUBSTANCE	REGULATION (AMENDING ANNEX XVII OF REACH)	SCOPE / AMENDMENT	REQUIREMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Cadmium	Regulation (EU) 835/2012	Amendment to list of synthetic polymers in the manufacture of articles and mixtures	≤ 0.01% (100 mg/kg)	19 September 2012
Lead	Regulation (EU) 836/2012	i. Jewellery, imitation jewellery and hair accessories including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bracelets, necklaces and rings • Piercing jewellery • Wrist watches and wrist-wear • Brooches and cufflinks ii. Components used to manufacture jewellery	≤ 0.05% (500 mg/kg)	9 October 2012
Mercury	Regulation (EU) 847/2012	Expansion of prohibition to mercury-containing devices intended for industrial and professional use eg <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • barometers and similar devices 	Prohibited	10 April 2014
Phenylmercury compounds (as mercury)	Regulation (EU) 848/2012	i. mixture ii. Article or part thereof	Prohibited	10 October 2017

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



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