

SAFEGUARDS

CONSUMER GOODS AND RETAIL

HARDGOODS, TOYS & JUVENILE PRODUCTS, SOFTLINES, ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONICS

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EU EXPANDS RESTRICTION OF PAHS TO TOYS AND OTHER CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The EU has recently expanded the scope of restriction of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) to plastic and rubber components in articles under REACH¹. The restriction limits are dependent on the nature of the article. The enforcement date takes effect on 27 December 2015.

In July 2013, we informed you that the modified proposal to strengthen the restriction of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in consumer products under entry 50 of ANNEX XVII of REACH received favourable support from the meeting of the REACH Committee².

On 7 December 2013, Regulation (EU) 1272/2013 was published in the Official Journal of the European (OJEU) and the new PAHs requirements have been added under entry 50 of ANNEX XVII of REACH. The listed PAHs are classified as carcinogens of category 1B. The scope has expanded from the already existing restriction of PAHs in extender oils and such oils in the manufacture of tyres to the new requirements of rubber or plastic components in articles that come into direct as well as prolonged or short-term repetitive contact with the human skin or the oral cavity under normal or reasonably foreseeable usage³.

These PAHs are not intentionally added into articles and do not perform any specific function as constituents of plastic or rubber components. They are present as impurities in some raw materials such as extender oils and carbon black used in the manufacture of articles and experience shows that they can be found in a wide range of consumer products made from plastic or rubber but can be detected in other materials as well.

The enforcement date takes effect on 27 December 2015. Articles placed on the market for the first time before this date are exempted.

Highlights of the new law are summarised in Table 1.



¹ [Table of substances/group of substances, which are restricted by Annex XVII to REACH Regulation](#)

² [SGS-SafeguardS 137/13](#) and references therein

³ [Regulation \(EU\) 1272/2013 amending entry 50 on PAHs under ANNEX XVII of REACH](#)

TABLE 1.

REGULATION (EU) 1272/2013 (amending entry 50 on PAHs under ANNEX XVII of REACH)			
PAH (Acronym) [CAS]	SCOPE (rubber or plastic components in articles that come into direct and prolonged or short-term repetitive contact with the human skin or the oral cavity)	REQUIREMENT (each PAH)	ENFORCEMENT DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP) [50-32-8] Benzo[e]pyrene (BeP) [192-97-2] Benzo[a]anthracene (BaA) [56-55-3] Chrysen (CHR) [218-01-9] Benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbFA) [205-99-2] Benzo[j]fluoranthene (BjFA) [205-82-3] Benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkFA) [207-08-9] Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene (DBAhA) [53-70-3] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles including amongst others: Clothing, footwear, gloves and sportswear House-hold utensils, trolleys, walking frames Sport equipment such as bicycles, golf clubs, racquets Watch-straps, wrist-bands, masks, head-bands 	≤1 mg/kg	27 December 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childcare articles Toys, including activity toys 	≤0.5 mg/kg	
Exemption			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Articles placed on the market for the first time before enforcement date 			

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



FOR ENQUIRIES:

Global Competence Support Centre:
gcsc@sgs.com

HK- Hingwo Tsang Tel: +852 2774 7420 or
Hingwo.Tsang@sgs.com

Asia – Hong Kong,
Tel: +852 2334 4481,
mktg.hk@sgs.com

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

Europe – London – UK.
Tel: +44(0) 203 008 7860
gb.cts.sales@sgs.com

Africa & Middle East – Turkey.
Tel: +90 212 368 40 00
sgs.turkey@sgs.com

Americas – USA.
Tel: +1 973 575 5252
uscts.inquiries@sgs.com

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