

18 November 2019

Annex to press release

Companies need to improve communication of hazardous substances in products

Helsinki, 18 November 2019

Annex to ECHA/PR/19/15

The inspections in the pilot project ran from October 2017 to December 2018 and focused on notification and communication obligations for Candidate List substances in articles under REACH. The inspections were followed by a reporting phase from January to November 2019.

Inspectors found 51 articles containing **phthalates** (mostly DEHP) and 12 containing **short-chain chloroparaffins (SCCPs)**. These substances were mostly found in products made from soft plastic materials such as PVC.

Diazene-1,2-dicarboxamide (C,C'-azodi(formamide)) (ADCA) was found in 12 cases, mostly in foamed material used in yoga mats and for hockey helmet padding. Inspectors also found products containing **lead, cadmium, bisphenol A** and **brominated flame retardants**.

Candidate List substances are those identified as SVHCs and which could later on be included in the Authorisation List.

According to Article 33, substances that are on the Candidate List may be present in articles, but information to allow the safe use of those articles must be available throughout the supply chain. Companies have obligations under Article 33(1) to inform recipients of the article about the content when the Candidate List substance is contained in the article in concentrations above 0.1 % weight by weight. If a consumer asks, they have to be informed within 45 days, free of charge, according to Article 33(2).

Article 7(2) states the circumstances under which producers or importers of articles have to notify ECHA where the Candidate List substance is present in their articles in concentrations above 0.1% weight by weight and in a quantity above one tonne per producer or importer per year.

Background information

The role of the Enforcement Forum

The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement (Forum) is a network of authorities responsible for the enforcement of the REACH, CLP, PIC, POP and Biocidal Product regulations in the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The term 'product' in the press release refers to an article, defined by REACH as 'an object which during production is given a special shape, surface or design which determines its function to a greater degree than does its chemical composition'.