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EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

CLP Regulation

- **ECHA received new proposal and intention on classification and labelling for Sodium chlorate and Potassium chlorate**

Source: ECHA

Sweden has submitted proposals to harmonise the classification and labelling (CLH) of:

- **Sodium chlorate** with a classification of oxidising solid 1, may cause fire or explosion and acute toxicity; and
- **Potassium chlorate** with a classification of oxidising solid 1 and acute toxicity, harmful if swallowed or inhaled.

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

SVHCs

- **ECHA submitted a recommendation to the European Commission to add the endocrine disrupting properties of four phthalates**

Source: ECHA

Echa has recommended that the European Commission should amend the REACH authorisation list to include endocrine disrupting properties for four phthalates. Once the Commission decides on the amendment, some previously exempted uses will require authorisation.

The substances concerned are:

- **bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)**
- **benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP)**
- **dibutyl phthalate (DBP)**
- **diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)**

They were identified as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) due to endocrine disrupting properties with effects on human health. DEHP was also identified for its effects on the environment.

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/-/endocrine-disrupting-properties-to-be-added-for-four-phthalates-in-the-authorisation-list>

- **ECHA issued a final reminder of the 15 July deadline to submit substance of very high concerns in articles notifications**

Source: ECHA

The substances of interest are:

- **1,7,7-trimethyl-3-(phenylmethylene)bicyclo[2.2.1]heptan-2-one (3-benzylidene camphor).** It can be found in textiles for UV protection among others;
- **benzo[k]fluoranthene; fluoranthene; phenanthrene; pyrene. These polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).** It can be found in coatings, adhesives, and road and construction applications.

Importers and EU producers of articles are encouraged to check if these substances in their articles meet the conditions for the notification obligation under Article 7 of REACH.

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Heating

- **EVENT/ 100% Renewable Heating & Cooling for a Sustainable Future, 28 October 2019, Helsinki**

Source: European Commission

The European Technology & Innovation Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC ETIP) organises the event 100% RHC for a Sustainable Future.

The RHC ETIP gathers industry representatives, researchers and policy makers to network and exchange their expertise on RHC innovative projects, challenges and opportunities.

Registration is open until 30 August 2019 [here](#).

Access the event information :

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=9AC3EA6A-00D4-4D1B-AD22BB3BEDE5C496>

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Endocrine Disruptors

- **Opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee on the Communication from the Commission: “Towards a comprehensive EU framework on endocrine disruptors”**

Source: European Commission

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) is a consultative body that gives representatives of Europe's socio-occupational interest groups (employers, workers, etc) and others a formal platform to express their points of view on EU issues. Its opinions, which are not binding, are addressed to the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament and then published in the EU's Official Journal.

Conclusions and recommendations of the EESC:

- The EESC considers it necessary to carry out a complete examination on current legislation, including the social and economic impact, in order to establish the real state of play. A holistic approach is crucial to supporting a long-term strategy which makes it possible to deal with endocrine disruptors (EDs) in a coherent, consistent and scientific way. Nevertheless, the Committee considers that this strategy should be reinforced with a realistic action plan which sets targets and deadlines.
- The mechanism of governance should be science-based, in order to ensure transparency for citizens and stakeholders.
- Bans or restrictions on some substances or products, once they are plausibly identified as EDs, could have a relevant impact on enterprises and workplaces. For this reason, the EESC recommends that the Commission

provide for a specific financial mechanism to support the transition towards more sustainable production, in order to improve industries' production techniques and mechanisms and update workers' skills.

- The EESC supports the proposal for an Annual Stakeholder Meeting.

Access the information:

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2019.228.01.0083.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2019:228:TOC

GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

SVHCs

- **Press release of the General Court: Confirmation of the inclusion of Bisphenol A as a substance of very high concern**

Source: Court of Justice of the European Union

The General Court is made up of at least one judge from each Member State (46 judges in office as of 20 March 2019).

The General Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine actions brought by natural or legal persons against acts of the institutions, bodies, offices or agencies of the European Union and against regulatory acts or against a failure to act on the part of those institutions, bodies, offices or agencies.

On 19 July 2016, the Commission adopted a regulation under which Bisphenol A is classified as toxic for reproduction.

In this case, the organisation PlasticsEurope brought the European Commission decision to ban the substance Bisphenol A to the Court. Bisphenol A is a substance which is mainly used as an intermediate in the manufacture of polymers.

On 11 July, the General Court dismissed the action of PlasticsEurope in its entirety. Therefore, the status of the substance does not change.

Access the press release:

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2019-07/cp190092en.pdf>



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EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

CLP Regulation

- **ECHA received a new proposal to harmonise classification and labelling**

Source: ECHA

Belgium has submitted a proposal to harmonise the classification and labelling (CLH) of:

- **4,4'-sulphonyldiphenol**

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

REACH

- **The European Commission has granted authorisations for uses of substances**

Source: ECHA

The substances concerned are:

- **chromium trioxide:** the review period expires on 10 July 2031;
- **bis(2-methoxyethyl) ether (diglyme):** the review period expires on 22 August 2024.

Biocides

- **EVENT / Save the date: Biocides Day**

Source: ECHA

ECHA organises Biocides Day on 29 October 2019 for an insight into the current priorities for biocides in the EU. The event will focus on active substance approval, endocrine disruptors and biocidal product families. The event is open to all and free of charge. Registration will open soon.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Plastics

- **The Commission registered the citizens' initiative 'Let's put an end to the era of plastic in Europe'**

Source: European Commission

Once formally registered, the organisers of a European citizens' initiative have one year to collect signatures of 1 million citizens from at least 7 of the Member States to invite the European Commission to propose a legal act in areas where the Commission has the power to do so.

On 26 July, the European Commission registered the citizens' initiative 'Let's put an end to the era of plastic in Europe'. This initiative focuses on single-use plastics.

Access the information:

https://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-19-3456_en.htm

Water

- **EVENT / EU Water Innovation Conference 2019**

Source: European Commission

The EU Water Innovation Conference 2019 (EUWIC) will be held on December 12, in Zaragoza, Spain. It will carry the theme: "Accelerating action to tackle water pollution and enhance EU preparedness to water-related climate change impacts." The European Commission aims to raise awareness about the need and urgency to improve water management across the European Union towards a water-smart society.

You can find the preliminary programme here:

<https://www.eip-water.eu/programme-eip-water-conference-2019>

Access the information about the event:

<https://www.eip-water.eu/eu-water-innovation-conference-2019-0>



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EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

CLP

- **Public consultation on harmonised classification and labelling**

Source: ECHA

ECHA is looking for comments on harmonised classification and labelling proposals for:

- **Benzophenone** (EC 204-337-6, CAS 119-61-9);
- **4,4'-oxydi(benzenesulphonohydrazide)** (EC 201-286-1, CAS 80-51-3);
and
- **Toluene-4-sulphonohydrazide** (EC 216-407-3, CAS 1576-35-8).

The deadline for comments is 11 October 2019.

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/harmonised-classification-and-labelling-consultation>

- **New proposals and intentions to harmonise classification and labelling**

Source: ECHA

Intentions to harmonise the classification and labelling have been received for:

- **reaction mass of N,N'-ethane-1,2-diylbis(decanamide) and 12-hydroxy-N-[2-[(1-oxodecyl)amino]ethyl]octadecanamide and N,N'-ethane-1,2-diylbis(12-hydroxyoctadecanamide)** (EC 430-050-2, CAS -),
- **dichloromethane; methylene chloride** (EC 200-838-9, CAS 75-09-2),
and
- **1,4-Benzenediamine, N,N'-mixed Ph and tolyl derivs.** (EC 273-227-8, CAS 68953-84-4).

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

SVHCs

- **ECHA received intention to identify a substance of very high concern**
Source: ECHA

New intentions have been received for:

- **Resorcinol** (EC 203-585-2, CAS 108-46-3).

Access the information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/registry-of-svhc-intentions>

Biocides

- **UPDATE / EVENT / Save the date: Biocides Day**
Source: ECHA

In the last monitoring (2/08/19) we informed you of this event. You can find below more information.

ECHA organises Biocides Day on 29 October 2019 in Helsinki.

More information about the event:

<https://echa.europa.eu/fr/-/biocides-day-2019>

Register here:

<https://link.webpolsurveys.com/EP/E1F0CB0EECADEACE>

Workers' exposure

- **ECHA has published guidance on occupational exposure limits**
Source: ECHA

ECHA has published guidance for preparing a scientific report for health-based exposure limits and occupational exposure limits (OELs) in the workplace. It aligns the methodologies in REACH and occupational health and safety legislation, to establish safe levels of exposure to chemicals in the workplace. The document takes the findings of the ECHA/RAC – SCOEL joint task force into account.

This is a follow-up of the REACH review, improving the interface between REACH and occupational health and safety legislation. As of 2019, ECHA has started providing recommendations for occupational exposure limits that protect workers exposed to hazardous chemicals.

Access the guide:

https://www.echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/23036412/ircsa_r8_appendix_oel_s_en.pdf?_cldee=ZWxpc2UucmVnYWlyYXpAYWxpZW5vcmV1LmNvbQ%3d%3d&recipientid=lead-2f0d7f4f3210e9118108005056952b31-912ea67233df4ed3afbc788b1ceb2165&esid=b96be7eb-e4b8-e911-8111-005056b9310e

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

CLP

- **Self classification inconsistencies limit value of CLP information – Commission**

Source: Chemical Watch

The value of the EU's database of substance classifications is being limited by inconsistencies arising from self-classification, the European Commission has found.

In its report on the fitness of chemicals legislation excluding REACH, published in June, the Commission describes the inconsistencies as an "issue" that has been "exacerbated" by Echa's powerlessness with regard to corrective action.

There are two mechanisms for classification under CLP. One is the "harmonised classification and labelling" (CLH) process, which is initiated when a member state submits a CLH proposal. They can do this for:

- carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic substances (CMRs);
- respiratory sensitisers; and
- other substances on a case-by-case basis.

The aim of such proposals is to set classifications that are mandatory across the EU – known as harmonised classifications under CLP – for those substances corresponding to the hazards of highest concern.

The other mechanism is self classification. Companies using chemical substances – manufacturers, importers and downstream users – must self classify for substances that do not have harmonised classifications. This comprises the overwhelming majority.

In the case of multiple companies using the same substance, they are legally required to make every effort to agree a common classification. However, according to the report, they often fail to do so, leading to multiple entries for the same substance in the classification and labelling inventory (CLI). These multiple entries, the Commission says, affect the value of the CLI as a hazard communication tool and represent a "challenge".

In a staff working document accompanying the report, the Commission adds that "there are concerns about the reliability of some of the self-classifications".

The challenge is made harder by two other factors. Firstly, Echa lacks a legal basis for:

- correcting or deleting obvious mistakes;
- removing entries by defunct companies, or for substances that no longer require them; or
- contacting directly notifiers or registrants in order to initiate corrective action.

Secondly, the rate of submission of CLH submissions is slow, primarily because of capacity constraints at member state level.

First fitness check study

The report and staff working document were based on evidence from the first fitness check study, conducted for the Commission by a consortium of consultancies led by RPA and published in 2017.

Through stakeholder surveys, the study identified several potential reasons for the lack of consistency across entries for the same substance, including:

- differences in the impurity profile, or physical state;
- differences in the availability of data; and
- some importers classifying according to national requirements rather than the CLP.

It also recorded the suggestion that companies purposely under-classify their substances prior to notification.

"Some in industry have claimed that there would appear to be evidence of frivolous notifications in order to impact products from a competitive perspective or from the perspective of stigmatising the substance for further regulation [via, for example, a CLH proposal]," the Commission said.

Way forward

Options for improving the consistency and reliability of classifications are proposed in the 2017 study, including:

- giving priority to data from REACH registration dossiers;

- creating obligations for notifiers to update their notifications; and
- making notifications time-limited.

The study also suggested changing CLP to allow the sharing of contact details of notifiers and registrants. However, in May, Cefic raised concerns over the idea of making public the identities of notifiers, calling for a "cautious approach" to protect confidential business information.

Access the article (subscription needed):

<https://chemicalwatch.com/81250/self-classification-inconsistencies-limit-value-of-clp-information-commission>