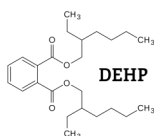




**TiO2 Classification Update**



**4 Phthalates Restriction Update**



**Update on ADCA**



**Microplastics Restriction Proposal**



**EN15804 Revision**



**Lead Restriction**



**Update on MORE**



**EuPC Annual Meeting 2019**

## TiO2 Classification Update



The Commission has postponed the discussion and vote about the entire 14th ATP (adaptation to the technical & scientific progress), including the TiO<sub>2</sub> classification proposal, as its REACH Committee once again did not reach an agreement on the 14th ATP during its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2019.

Although a possible decision by the REACH Committee on the entire 14th ATP is expected at the meeting, taking place at 14th/15th of

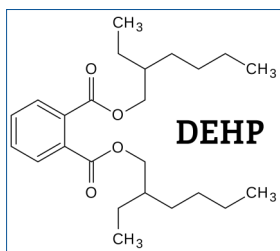
June 2019, this depends in principle on the progress of adapting the CLP Regulation to the new procedure for adopting the ATP (the forthcoming "Lisbonisation" of the procedure; delegated acts) which might push further considerations of the classification back. In the "delegated acts" procedure, the Commission no longer needs the approval of the Member States, but can in principle decide on its own which will significantly increase its decision-making powers.

The new procedure provides the Commission the opportunity to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the consequences of a classification - in line with the "better regulation agenda". The result of the latest public consultation in which more than 400 companies, associations, institutions and individuals participated clearly indicates the significant effects of classifying titanium dioxide. More than 95% of the submissions criticised a classification of titanium dioxide as inappropriate and disproportionate.

**EuPC** is closely monitoring the procedure and will keep its members informed on the next steps.

More information: [Mohammad.Hayatifar@eupc.org](mailto:Mohammad.Hayatifar@eupc.org)

## Restriction of four Phthalates Entered Into Force



On 7 January 2019, the Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2005 entered into force which restricts the use of bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), dibutyl phthalate (DBP), benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP) and diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP) under of the REACH Regulation. The substances are now included in the Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation.

The substances will not be placed on the market after 7 July 2020 in articles, individually or in any combination of the phthalates listed in column 1 of the measure, in a concentration equal to or greater than 0,1

% by weight of the plasticised material in the article. This restriction, however, does not apply (among others) to:

- articles exclusively for industrial or agricultural use, or for use exclusively in the open air, provided that no plasticised material comes into contact with human mucous membranes or into prolonged contact with human skin (*Note: e.g. articles made of recycled soft PVC*);
- articles placed on the market before 7 July 2020;
- materials and articles intended to come into contact with food within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 or Commission Regulation (EU) No 10/2011;

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## Restriction of four Phthalates Entered Into Force

- medical devices within the scope of Directives 90/385/EEC, 93/42/EEC or 98/79/EC, or parts thereof;

On 5 June 2018, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) launched a public consultation on behalf of the European Commission (EC) regarding the uses of DEHP, DBP, BBP, and DIBP. In 2017, four phthalates were identified as substances of very high concern (SVHCs) due to their endocrine disrupting properties with effects on human health. Already in 2014, DEHP was classified as an SVHC with endocrine disrupting effects on the environment. All four phthalates had previously been identified as SVHCs due to their reprotoxic properties.

The measure foresees an 18-month period for the stakeholders to adapt to the new regulatory requirements.

More information: [Martin.Policar@eupc.org](mailto:Martin.Policar@eupc.org)

## Update on ADCA's Inclusion in the REACH Authorization List



Diazene-1,2-dicarboxamide (C,C'-azodi(formamide)), also known as ADCA, is a blowing agent widely diffused in the industry: currently, about 3 million tonnes of plastics products in the EU are foamed with this substance. ADCA

has recently been considered by the Commission to be included in the REACH authorization list (Annex XIV) for its respiratory sensitising properties (REACH, Article 57(f) - human health).

In November 2018, the Commission informed the REACH Committee of substances to be potentially included in Annex XIV. Consequently, the WTO consultation took place from 15/02/2019 - 16/04/2019, and the feedback mechanism consultation started on 24/04/2019 and ends on 22/05/2019. At the same time, a vote in the REACH Committee is expected in June 2019. The potential scrutiny by the Council and the European Parliament is starting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and it will last 3 months. In case there are no objections to include ADCA in the authorisation list, publication in the official journal will follow and the entry into force will be the end of October 2019. As a consequence, the latest application date for authorisation will be August 2022 (latest available month for applying within the window period) and the sunset date will be April 2024.

After immediate actions raising awareness at higher levels of EC and Cabinet in November 2018, **EuPC** continued being in contact with the authorities and at the same time started collecting complementary data. Subsequently, **EuPC**, the European Tyre & Rubber Manufacturers' Association (ETRMA) and the ADCA Task Force submitted a multi-association letter to the European Commission, together with two reports focusing the plastics and rubber sector, produced by **EuPC** and ETRMA respectively. Moreover, single companies submitted individual feedback, stressing the socio-economic consequences of the inclusion in Annex XIV on their activities.

The main message that was unanimously launched is that the authorization process should be stopped for this substance as it is not a proportionate risk management option and alternative regulatory options, such as the setting of an EU wide Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL), beginning with the UK level as reference, should be investigated.

More information: [Marco.Perfetti@eupc.org](mailto:Marco.Perfetti@eupc.org)

## Microplastics Restriction Proposal



The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has submitted a [restriction proposal](#), on the request of the European Commission in 2018, for microplastic particles that are intentionally added to mixtures used by consumers or professionals.

The restriction dossier provides a wide-ranging definition. Microplastics are described as solid-polymer-containing particles, to which additives or other substances may have been added, and where at least 1% w/w of particles have:

- all dimensions  $1\text{nm} \leq x \leq 5\text{mm}$ ; or
- for fibres, a length of  $3\text{nm} \leq x \leq 15\text{mm}$  and a length to diameter ratio of  $>3$ .

— Article continues on the next page —

## Microplastics Restriction Proposal

The proposal sets out measures to reduce the use of microplastics. The proposed restriction comprises three types of actions:

- restriction on the placing on the market of microplastics on their own or in mixtures, where their use will inevitably result in a release to the environment, irrespective of the conditions of use;
- labelling requirement to minimise the release to the environment for uses of microplastics where a release is not inevitable but where residual releases could occur if they are not used or disposed of appropriately; and
- reporting requirement to improve quality of information available to assess potential future risks.

ECHA has recently launched a [public consultation on the restriction dossier](#). The consultation started on the 20th of March and will last 6 months. The first **deadline for comments** on the restriction proposal is the **20<sup>th</sup> May 2019**.

ECHA's Committees for Risk Assessment and Socio-economic Analysis (RAC and SEAC) will then evaluate and begin to provide scientific opinions on the proposal. These are expected to be sent to the Commission for decision making in spring 2020. It is then up to the Commission to propose to amend the REACH Regulation if the restriction meets the legal requirements.

The public consultation is a crucial step in the opinion-making by ECHA committees as the information provided will be used to refine the risk assessment, the transitional provisions and derogations in the restriction.

**EuPC** is currently assessing the potential impact of the proposal on plastic converters and will provide feedback for the public consultation.

More information: [Mohammad.Hayatifar@eupc.org](mailto:Mohammad.Hayatifar@eupc.org)

## Amendment of the EN15804 Standard and PEF



The EN 15804 standard is being revised to align with the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) methodology. The objective is to have a single methodological reference at European level when it comes to the calculation of the life cycle environmental performance of construction products and buildings.

On 25 April 2019, the draft amendment standard EN 15804/FprA2:2019 has been sent for the formal vote and comments within CEN to the National Standardization Bodies. The final version is accompanied by a newly released JRC study which is referred to in the amendment.

The final vote is running until 20 June 2019. After this, the standard is expected to be published early in Q3 2019. In the new standard, there will be foreseen a coexistence of the old and new standard for 1 year.

More information: [Martin.Policar@eupc.org](mailto:Martin.Policar@eupc.org)

## Restriction of Lead Stabilizers to be Discussed in REACH Committee



Lead stabilisers have been voluntarily phased out under the VinylPlus Voluntary Commitment. However, in the coming decades lead will be found in PVC recylate that is being introduced into new products. Furthermore, Extra-EU article producers can still use lead to produce articles for import into the EU. To put a legislative barrier to protect the EU population from such potential lead exposure sources, the

European Commission has asked the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to prepare a REACH restriction dossier to limit the use of lead stabilisers in articles.

The Restriction Proposal contains specific exemptions enabling the use of recylate containing lead stabilizers in specific rigid and soft PVC applications (e.g. co-extruded pipes and window profiles). The European Plastics Converters, together with VinylPlus and PRE have actively contributed evidence to enable the provision of stronger and more effective derogations for the use of recylate.

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## Restriction of Lead Stabilizers to be Discussed in REACH Committee

The proposed restriction was discussed within the ECHA Risk Assessment Committee and Socio Economic Assessment Committee. Those opinions were then forwarded to the European Commission which is expected to make available a legislative proposal for a vote in the REACH Committee (Comitology Procedure – Examination Procedure). It is expected that the vote will take place at the next REACH Committee meeting on 18-19 June 2019. However, a consultation of the World Trade Organization is expected to take place in the coming weeks which might delay the voting in the REACH Committee.

The restriction proposal is expected to contain derogation of 15 years for the use of recyclate containing lead stabilizers in soft PVC (1%) and rigid PVC (2%) PVC in selected construction product types. Once approved, the restriction will be incorporated into REACH Annex XVII.

More information: [Martin.Policar@eupc.org](mailto:Martin.Policar@eupc.org)

## MOonitoring Recyclates for Europe (MORE) has been launched on the 25th April



After eight months of hard work, MORE is available to be used by converters since the 25th of April 2019. MORE is the single, unified digital platform to monitor the uptake of recycled polymers into products, and it was developed by **EuPC** in cooperation with its members, and in support to the European Commission's EU Plastics Strategy. The objective is to monitor and register the plastics converting industry's efforts to reach the EU target of 10 million tonnes of recycled polymers used annually between 2025 and 2030.

MORE is now available in six EU countries: Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands, hence covering close to 50% of the recycled polymers used in Europe. Additional EU countries will follow in May and June to cover the entire EU by summer 2019. Currently, MORE is available in English, German, Spanish, Italian and French, with the aim to cover most of the official EU languages by the end of 2019. The tool can be found at [www.moreplatform.eu](http://www.moreplatform.eu).

National Coordinators have been appointed in several countries, and they will participate in the national monitoring process, with a mandate to provide easier access and ensure better coordination with national plastic converting industries.

More information: [Marjan.Ranogajec@eupc.org](mailto:Marjan.Ranogajec@eupc.org)

## EuPC Annual Meeting 2019



IK, Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen, and **EuPC**, European Plastics Converters, are organising together the 2019 edition of the conference A Circular Future with Plastics. The two-day event will take place on 13th & 14th June at the Maritim Hotel proArte in Berlin. During the morning of the 13th June, the "**EuPC** Market Divisions" on Packaging, Automotive and Building & Construction will take place in parallel, before a session on marine litter is organised by Waste Free Oceans in the afternoon. During the conference on the 14th June, representatives of national and European politics, CEOs of the plastics industry will share their knowledge and experience about the trends of the sector. Confirmed speakers include



**Renato Zelcher**  
CEO of Crocco SpA & President of European Plastics Converters



**Roland Straßburger**  
CEO der SCHÜTZ GmbH & Co. KGaA & President of Industrievereinigung Kunststoffverpackungen e. V.



**Javier Constanste**  
Commercial VP, Packaging and Speciality Plastics EMEA at DOW & President of PlasticsEurope



**Michael Kundel**  
CEO of Renolit



**David Baker**  
RPC Group Industry Affairs Director & Chairman of PCEP



**Dr. Melinda Crane**  
Chief Political Correspondent Deutsche Welle TV, Journalist & Moderator

More information: [Felix.Miessen@eupc.org](mailto:Felix.Miessen@eupc.org)



## EuPC Annual Meeting 2019

The draft programme of the 2019 **EuPC** Annual Meeting as well as the registration are accessible at [www.circularfuturewithplastics.eu](http://www.circularfuturewithplastics.eu). **EuPC** and IK thank the sponsors and media partners of the event.

### Gold Sponsors



### Bronze Sponsors



More information: [Felix.Miessen@eupc.org](mailto:Felix.Miessen@eupc.org)

## Upcoming Meetings

Raw Materials Committee	24 May 2019 <i>Brussels</i>
<b>EuPC Annual Meeting</b>	13/14 June 2019 <i>Berlin</i>
EuPC Packaging Division ExCom	25 September 2019 <i>Location tbc</i>
EuPC B&C Division ExCom	25 September 2019 <i>Location tbc</i>
EuPC Steering Committee	26 September 2019 <i>Conference Call</i>
EuPC Members Executives Forum	23 October 2019 <i>Düsseldorf - K Fair</i>

## CONFERENCES by Polymer Comply Europe

11- 12 April 2019

**European Food Contact Plastics Seminar**  
Supported by EuPC

14 May 2019

**3D Printing within the Plastics Converting Industry**  
Supported by EuPC & CECIMO

4 June 2019

**Chemical Recycling of Polymers**  
Supported by EuPC,

17 September 2019

**Technical and Economical Barriers to the use of Recycled Polymers**  
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26 November 2019

**Circular Polymers in Furniture**  
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*Coming in 2020*


March 2020

**Polymer Trading for Plastic Converters in Europe**  
Supported by EuPC

November 2020

**Education and Labour Market for the Plastics Converting Industries**  
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