

## REACH

It is now easier to find information on 120 000 chemicals used in Europe today

ECHA has launched a new way of finding information on its website about the chemicals that have been registered under REACH or notified to the CLP inventory.

This new way is easier to find out about the chemicals used on a daily basis. The information is available in three layers of complexity (Simple infocard, more detailed brief profile and the full source data):

- ✓ The **infocard** gives a summary of the key information on a chemical substance in plain English. Users can read about the chemicals they are exposed to, where they are commonly used, whether they are hazardous and the precautions that they might need to take.
- ✓ The **brief profile** goes deeper into the environmental, human health and physico-chemical properties of the chemical. It provides a user-friendly overview of the information collected for each substance under the different chemical regulations. This will be most useful for employers, workers, academics and regulators.
- ✓ The third level, **source data**, includes the raw data submitted by companies to ECHA in REACH registration dossiers and notifications to the classification and labelling inventory.

This three-level approach improves the transparency and traceability of data on chemicals. ECHA is not reducing the amount of information, adding or approving the collected data but making it much more accessible

The links for more information:

[http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal\\_content/title/know-more-about-the-effects-of-the-chemicals-we-use-in-europe](http://echa.europa.eu/view-article/-/journal_content/title/know-more-about-the-effects-of-the-chemicals-we-use-in-europe)

## PCS: Product Categorisation Study

The European Commission awarded a contract to TRASYS in order to carry out a study on a Product Categorisation System (PCS) for information to be submitted to Poison Centres according to Article 45 (4) of EC Regulation No. 1272/2008 (CLP Regulation).

An **online questionnaire** has been prepared with the objective to identify and analyse the existing PCS currently in place and to learn about your requirements and suggestions for development of the European Product Categorisation System.

The link to the questionnaire:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Q4INDProductCategorisationSystem>

## Regulatory fitness of the legislative framework

The European Commission launched an important study evaluating the implementation of the CLP Regulation and its linkages with other legislation. This is one of the main studies supporting the fitness check on chemicals legislation (excluding REACH), announced in the Commission Communication on the Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT).

The study is conducted by **RPA** (Risk & Policy Analysts Limited), together with Milieu Ltd, **Ökopol** (Institute für Ökologie und Politik) and **NCEC** (National Chemical Emergency Centre, a division of Ricardo-AEA). It will run between July 2015 and September 2016.

The study will evaluate the implementation of CLP and the interplay between CLP and related legislation, in particular other legislation governing hazard identification, classification and communication ('horizontal links') and downstream legislation that establishes risk management measures directly or indirectly triggered by a CLP hazard class ('vertical links'). It will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the framework. A particular emphasis will be placed on inconsistencies and incoherence. Case studies will be conducted to examine key issues in more detail.

The links for more information:

[http://rpald.co.uk/clp\\_consultation](http://rpald.co.uk/clp_consultation)

## BPR “Biocide Product Regulation”

The EU Commission and the Member States have decided that skin sensitizing biocides of the categories 1 and 1A must be ‘stigmatized’ by adding additional labelling elements as defined under the BPR Art 58(3) instead of recognizing that the CLP legislation prevails for chemical mixtures.

This is applicable to resins products preserved during shelf life by biocide(s) (**treated articles**).

Treated article definition:

*Treated article, means any substance, mixture or article which has been treated with, or intentionally incorporates, one or more biocidal products.*

## **Cosmetic Packaging material and the potential release**

The challenges regarding the safety assessment of cosmetic packaging have been the source of a guidelines draft for cosmetic packaging products which are developed around food contact legislation/standards (joint industry EU Cosmetics Packaging group meeting October 2015).

The purpose of this group was to create guidance on information exchange along the value chain for safety evaluation of packaging under the cosmetic regulation.

The safety assessment of a cosmetic product must consider the potential impact arising from the transfer of substances from the packaging into the cosmetic formulation.

**Firstly**, the packaging as a whole, specific parts or materials (depending on what is supplied) should be described with a general chemical description of its various components<sup>1</sup>. It should be noted that, if the primary packaging does not provide a functional barrier, the cosmetics safety assessor should also consider the potential for transfer of substances from the secondary packaging, whether by migration or by vapour phase transfer.

**Secondly**, all those components which are potentially capable of transferring chemical substances to the cosmetics formulation should be identified and communicated.

**Thirdly**, having identified those packaging components which can have a potential impact on the safety of the cosmetics product, the cosmetics safety assessment requires adequate information about them. In the following sections, this document describes the actions recommended in this approach and which are described in detail in the following chapters

Packaging material means the container (or primary packaging) that is in direct contact with the formulation. The relevant characteristics of packaging materials in direct contact with the final product are important for the safety of the cosmetic product. Reference to Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council could be useful.

Experience with similar formulation/packaging combinations already on the market provides useful indications. Materials that have been developed for food packaging have often already been tested, so relevant information on stability and migration may be available. Additional testing may not be required. However, more evaluation may be needed for new or novel packaging.

The links for more information on cosmetics regulation:

<https://www.cosmeticseurope.eu/safety-and-science-cosmetics-europe>

## **Mirobeads & Microplastics**

Microplastics are plastic particles with a diameter less than 5mm. Some products contain microscopic sizes plastic particles produced in microscopic sizes, for example granulates and microbeads in cosmetics. However, they can also be produced as secondary fragments as larger pieces of plastic break up in the environment, or as the result of fibres being washed out of textiles or .

There is growing awareness by the scientific community, governments, industry, the general public, the media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the potential for microplastics to harm the environment.

The scale of the problem has driven a large number of scientific investigations; initiatives at governmental, regional and international level; and activities led by NGOs, including education and awareness raising, lobbying, removal of litter from shorelines, and ocean expeditions

At European level, the topic of microbeads was initially taken from the use of microbeads in cosmetics and has been getting political attention from Member States interested in seawater quality and the lead has been taken by the Netherlands, specifically in the context of their EU presidency which started in January 2016.

DG Environment-European Commission has requested the scientific reports on this subject in order:

- *to support the development of measures to combat a range of marine litter sources;*
- *to investigate the level of pollution in EU rivers from plastic litter;*
- *to estimate the level of inputs of plastic litter from the rivers into four European regional seas.*

The studies are conducted by UK "Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd" and report have been published on Sep. 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 & January 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.

The links for more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/final\\_report.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/final_report.pdf)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/marine/good-environmental-status/descriptor-10/pdf/MSFD%20Measures%20to%20Combat%20Marine%20Litter.pdf>

**Note:** The information and views set out in these reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission.

## **Ecolabel**

The new criteria of Nordic Ecolabel for indoor paint or varnish have been published (Nov. 2015). The criteria are applicable to the group of indoor paint and varnish products comprise: floor coatings and floor paints, tinting systems, decorative paints in liquid or paste formulas which may have been pre-conditioned, tinted or prepared by the manufacturer to meet consumer's needs, including wood paints, wood and decking stains, masonry coatings and metal finishes primers and undercoats of such product systems as defined in Annex I to Directive 2004/42/CE for indoor usage.

### **New criteria**

- **Make a new MEKA and RPS (Relevance, Potential, Steerability) analysis.**
- **Evaluate the limits of preservatives.**
- **Evaluate the limit of ingoing substances classified as environmentally harmful.**
- **Evaluate the possibilities to set requirements to renewable raw materials.**
- **Evaluate the exemption for vinyl acetate in the requirement regarding residual monomers in polymers.**
- **Evaluate the exemption for glyoxal in the requirement regarding classification of ingoing chemical substances.**
- **Evaluate the requirements and limits of the content levels of SVOC and emission of TSVOC.**

### **Note:**

The VOC and SVOC content shall be determined either by testing the final product (Method ISO 11890-2) or by calculation based on the raw materials.

The link to Nordic Ecolabelling more information

<http://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/>

### **Revision of ISO 11890-2 method:**

The first meeting of ISO TC35 WG1 will be in Berlin on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 in order to work on the revision of ISO 11890-2.

### **Note:**

The EU ecolabel for interior paints requires determination of content of both VOC and SVOC using ISO 11890-2. But SVOC determination is not yet part of ISO 11890-2.

# Résumé

European Resin Manufacturers  
Association Newsletter-February 2016

**EUROPEAN  
RESIN  
MANUFACTURERS  
ASSOCIATION**

## Events

### Cop21:

COP (Conference of Parties) is part of UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) framework created in 1992 for international cooperation to combat climate change.

By 1995, countries launched negotiations to strengthen the global response to climate change, and, two years later, adopted the Kyoto Protocol. The Kyoto Protocol legally binds developed country Parties to emission reduction targets and will end in 2020.

COP 21 was aimed to adopt an international agreement for the climate change effects (limiting the rise in global temperatures to 2°C above pre-industrial levels) and set up mechanisms to adapt, especially in the most vulnerable and least developed countries

**Carbon pricing** decided by Cop members during Paris agreement, deliberately changes the economics of fossil fuel consumption for the worse. In theory it should erode the value of carbon intensive businesses and enhance the value of low carbon investment over the medium and longer term.

The link to UNFCCC for more information

[http://unfccc.int/essential\\_background/items/6031.php](http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php)

### Eurocoat 2016:

**Eurocoat is the only event for coating professionals in Europe in 2016**

Eurocoat will welcoming ERMA members in Paris, France, for 3 days (March 22-24/2016) of exchanges and business, to shape tomorrow's coatings industries.



The link to Eurocoat for more information & registration

<http://www.eurocoat-expo.com/?lang=en>

**European Resin Manufacturers Association (ERMA)**  
**"The Voice of Resins in Europe"**