

NEW PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON 15 POTENTIAL SUBSTANCES OF VERY HIGH CONCERN

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published on its website proposals to identify chemicals as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). Interested parties are welcome to comment on these 15 substances within the next 45 days. The comments will be taken into account when deciding whether the substances will be added to the Candidate List from which substances are selected for authorisation.

Anyone can comment by 15 October 2009, on the 15 proposals to identify chemicals as Substances of Very High Concern. These substances were proposed by EU/EEA Member States and by the European Commission. Comments should particularly focus on the hazardous properties that qualify the chemicals as SVHCs. In addition, parties can provide comments and further information on the uses, exposures and availability of safer alternative substances or techniques, although these aspects will mainly be considered at the next stage of the process which includes a new round of public consultation.

Comments received during the consultation period will be submitted to ECHA's Member State Committee when it is deciding whether it agrees with the proposed identification of the substances as SVHC. If the Committee unanimously agrees to the proposals, ECHA will place the substances on the so-called Candidate List, which already contains 15 substances. Substances appearing on this list may eventually be included in the list of substances subject to authorisation (the Authorisation List). In this case, after a transition period, they can only be used if a specific authorisation is granted. Information requirements for suppliers of substances, preparations and articles containing these substances will also follow from the inclusion of the substances in the Candidate List.

Nine out of the 15 substances are proposed to be identified as SVHCs because of their carcinogenic, mutagenic and/or reprotoxic (CMR) properties, having thus potentially serious effects on human health. Five substances are proposed to be identified as persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic and as very persistent and very bioaccumulative (PBT), having potentially serious negative effects on the environment. One substance is proposed because it is considered both as CMR and PBT.

Substance name	CAS-number	EC-number	Proposed property	SVHC
Anthracene oil	90640-80-5	292-602-7	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic	
Anthracene oil, anthracene paste, distn. lights *	91995-17-4	295-278-5	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic	
Anthracene oil, anthracene paste, anthracene fraction	91995-15-2	295-275-9	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic	
Anthracene oil, anthracene-low	90640-82-7	292-604-8	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic	
Anthracene oil, anthracene paste	90640-81-6	292-603-2	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic	
Coal tar pitch, high temperature	65996-93-2	266-028-2	Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic; carcinogen, category 2	
Acrylamide	79-06-1	201-173-7	Carcinogen, category 2; mutagen, category 2	
Aluminosilicate, Refractory Ceramic Fibres	-	650-017-00-8**	Carcinogen, category 2	
Zirconia Aluminosilicate, Refractory Ceramic Fibres	-	650-017-00-8**	Carcinogen, category 2	
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	121-14-2	204-450-0	Carcinogen, category 2	
Diisobutyl phthalate	84-69-5	201-553-2	Toxic for reproduction, category 2	
Lead chromate	7758-97-6	231-846-0	Carcinogen, category 2; toxic for reproduction, category 1	
Lead chromate molybdate sulphate red (C.I. Pigment Red 104)***	12656-85-8	235-759-9	Carcinogen, category 2; toxic for reproduction, category 1	
Lead sulfochromate yellow (C.I. Pigment Yellow 34)***	1344-37-2	215-693-7	Carcinogen, category 2; toxic for reproduction, category 1	
Tris(2-chloroethyl)phosphate	115-96-8	204-118-5	Toxic for reproduction, category 2	

The names of the substances and the reasons for their proposal as SVHC are:

* Light fractions from distillation

** All refractory ceramic fibres are covered by index number 650-017-00-8 in Annex VI of the Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of chemical substances and mixtures, the so called CLP Regulation (Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008).