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ECHA's scientific committees support restricting PAHs in granules and mulches

ECHA/PR/19/13

The Committee for Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC) has adopted its final opinion supporting the proposal for restricting eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) found in granules and mulches used, for example, in synthetic turf pitches and playgrounds.

Helsinki, 18 September 2019 – SEAC adopted its final opinion by simple majority, supporting the proposal by the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and following an earlier opinion by the Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) in June.

The restriction proposal lowers the total concentration limit of eight PAHs to **20 mg/kg** (0.002 % by weight). The concentration limits for PAHs in mixtures supplied to the general public are currently set at 100 mg/kg or 1 000 mg/kg for each of the substances. The PAHs all have been identified as causing cancer and the proposed concentration limits will be closer to the limit values for individual PAHs in articles supplied to the general public (entry 50 of REACH Restrictions list).

Currently, the levels of PAHs measured in granular infill material and mulches pose, at most, a very low level of concern (ECHA study, 2017). The aim of the proposed restriction is to ensure that the cancer risk from PAH exposure **remains at a low level** for those coming into contact (inhalation and skin contact) with the granules and mulches. This includes, for example, footballers, children playing on the pitches or playgrounds and workers installing and maintaining such surfaces.

SEAC concluded that the proposed restriction is the most appropriate measure to control the risks posed by these substances, and that the measures proposed would be proportionate to the risk with limited economic impacts. The proposal does not affect existing fields but will ensure that the material used for maintaining (refilling) the fields is below the new limit. The final opinion of SEAC will be published in the coming weeks.

Substance	CAS number
Benzo[a]pyrene (BaP)	50-32-8
Benzo[e]pyrene (BeP)	192-97-2
Benzo[a]anthracene (BaA)	56-55-3
Chrysen (CHR)	218-01-9
Benzo[b]fluoranthene (BbFA)	205-99-2
Benzo[j]fluoranthene (BjFA)	205-82-3
Benzo[k]fluoranthene (BkFA)	207-08-9
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene (DBaA)	53-70-3

Table: Eight PAHs with their CAS numbers.

Next steps

Following SEAC's adoption of its final opinion, the opinions of both RAC and SEAC will be forwarded to the European Commission. The Commission will consider if the conditions for the restriction are met, prepare a draft restriction measure to amend the REACH Restrictions list (Annex XVII) and submit this for an opinion to Member States in the REACH Committee.

Microplastics restriction proposal

The restriction proposal on PAHs concerns risks to human health from the substances present in the infill material of artificial turfs. ECHA is also progressing with its proposal to restrict intentionally added microplastics which aims at reducing potential environmental risks. The granular infill material that is typically used in artificial turf pitches is understood to be an 'intentionally-added microplastic'. A public consultation on this proposal ends on 20 September 2019, after which RAC and SEAC will finalise their opinions to aid the Commission's decision making. In the framework of the public consultation, further information has been requested specifically on the use of granular infill material in synthetic turf to assess the implications and the possible need for a derogation.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Restriction proposal for eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in granules and mulches (final opinion of SEAC coming later)

Hot topics – granules and mulches on pitches

Lower concentration limit proposed for PAHs found in granules and mulches, 16 August 2018

Restrictions list (Annex XVII to REACH)

Restriction proposal for intentionally added microplastics | Public consultation

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Applications for authorisation consultations

Consultations on new scientific evidence

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Submitted restrictions under consideration

ECHA Executive Director's requests related to the CLH process

Current calls for comments and evidence

Public consultation on potential candidates for substitution

Public consultation on derogation to the exclusion criteria

ECHA's Executive Director Requests to the Committees

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Public consultation on a draft recommendation for amendment of Authorisation List entries

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Registered substances

Registry of restriction intentions until outcome

Registry of SVHC intentions until outcome

Registry of CLH intentions until outcome

ECHA's current activities on restrictions

ECHA's completed activities on restriction

Annex III inventory

Pre-registered substances

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Dossier Evaluation status

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Endocrine disruptor assessment list

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Substance evaluation - CoRAP

RMOA list

Information on Candidate List substances in articles table

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How to improve your dossier

Mixture classification

UK withdrawal from the EU

Public consultations in the authorisation process	Substances restricted under REACH	Recommendations to registrants
Substances of very high concern identification	Biocidal Active Substances	
Occupational exposure limits - Call for comments and evidence	Biocidal Products	
Occupational exposure limits - Previous calls for comments and evidence	List of active substances and suppliers	
	Chemicals subject to PIC	
	Transitional Measures	
	Information from the Existing Substances Regulation (ESR)	
	PBT/vPvB assessments under the previous EU chemicals legislation	
	Candidate List	
	Submitted recommendations	
	Adopted opinions and previous consultations on applications for authorisation	
	Authorisation List	
	Adopted opinions on restriction proposals	
	Mapping exercise – Plastic additives initiative	
	Occupational exposure limits - Activity list	
	List of substances subject to POPs Regulation	
	List of substances proposed as POPs	

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