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Hardlines

REACH draft regulation on mercury restriction now available

The European Commission (EC) has recently submitted a draft Regulation to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to amend the REACH Annex XVII restriction on mercury. The Regulation is proposed to be adopted in August 2012 and it will be applicable 18 months after its entry into force.

This proposal extends the scope of the current restriction on mercury in Annex XVII entry 18a, after a review that helped determine further phasing out of mercury in measuring devices whenever technically and economically feasible. The scope and exemptions of the proposed restrictions are listed in Table A below.

For details of the draft Regulation and the various effective dates, please refer to the [draft Regulation](#)¹. ■



¹ See the draft Regulation at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/tbt_repository/EU7_EN_1_1.pdf

Table A: Summary of the proposed restrictions on mercury

Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mercury-containing measuring devices that cannot be placed on the market: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Barometers ■ Hygrometers ■ Manometers ■ Sphygmomanometers ■ Strain gauges to be used with plethysmographs ■ Tensiometers ■ Thermometers and other non-electrical thermometric applications <p>Note: the restriction still applies even though the above proposed measuring devices are empty but intended to be filled with mercury</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mercury-using measuring devices intended for industrial and professional uses that cannot be placed on the market: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mercury pycnometers ■ Mercury metering devices for determination of the softening point
Exemptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sphygmomanometers to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ In epidemiological studies which are on-going ■ As reference standards in clinical validation studies of mercury-free sphygmomanometers 2. Thermometers exclusively intended to perform tests according to standards that require the use of mercury thermometers 3. Mercury triple point cells which are used for the calibration of platinum resistance thermometers 4. The mercury-containing and mercury-using measuring devices listed in scope above that are more than 50 years old on 3 October 2007 5. Measuring devices which are to be displayed in public exhibitions for cultural and historical purposes
Entry into force	The new restrictions are expected to be published in August 2012 and will be effective 18 months after its entry into force.

Toys & Children's Products

Update on development of ISO 8124 standard



On 9 December 2011, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) released Amendment 1 (ISO 8124-1:2009/Amd 1:2011) to the ISO 8124-1:2009, Safety of Toys – Part 1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties¹. The major changes include new requirements on wires that are not designed to be bent, and lengthening the time a toy or component is to be completely submerged in a container of demineralized water.

In addition, on 9 March 2012, the ISO released Amendment 2 (ISO 8124-1:2009/Amd 2:2012) for Magnet².

Several ISO 8124 standards on the safety of toys are also in the process of being updated, as shown in Table B. This includes standards for mechanical and physical safety, flammability, and safety standards for swings and slides. In addition, two new standards are being developed

¹ See Amendment 1 to ISO 8124-1: 2009 at http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=53993

² See Amendment 2 to ISO 8124-1: 2009 at http://www.iso.org/iso/iso_catalogue/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=59245

(ISO/CD 8124-5 and ISO/CD 8124-6) to reduce the risk of a child being injured by hazardous chemicals. ■

Table B: Development of the ISO 8124 series on Safety of Toys

ISO 8124-1: Safety aspects related to mechanical and physical properties <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ISO 8124-1:2009/CD Amd 4 <i>Projectiles, rotors and propellers</i> ■ ISO 8124-1:2009/CD Amd 6 <i>Cords</i>
ISO 8124-2: Flammability
ISO 8124-4: Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ISO 8124-4:2010/FD Amd 1 <i>Inflatable activity toys</i> ■ ISO 8124-4:2010/CD Amd 2 <i>Paddling pools</i>
ISO/CD 8124-5: <i>Determination of total concentration of certain elements in toys*</i>
ISO/CD 8124-6: <i>Toys and children's products – Determination of phthalate plasticizers in polyvinyl chloride plastics*</i>

* New standards. For an explanation on the stages, please refer to http://www.iso.org/iso/standards_development/processes_and_procedures/stages_description/stages_table.htm

Hardlines

EU's ban on novelty and non-child-resistant lighters extended for the 6th time

The temporary ban on placing novelty and non-child-resistant lighters on the EU market first began in 2006 as a Decision taken by the European Commission under the General Product Safety Directive, GPSD (2001/95/EC). Owing to the ongoing absence of satisfactory measures addressing the child safety of lighters, this temporary ban has now been extended for the sixth time to 11 May 2013 through Decision 2012/53/EU published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJ EU) on 31 January 2012¹.

Cigarette lighters for the EU market must comply with the general safety requirements of the standard EN ISO 9994:2006 Lighters –

Safety Specification. In addition, they must not resemble objects that are especially appealing to children (so-called “novelty lighters”) and therefore present a high risk of misuse. Disposable plastic lighters and low-cost metal lighters must also conform to the standard EN 13869:2002 Lighters – *Child Resistance for Lighters* in addition to EN ISO 9994. About 98% of all lighters sold in the EU every year fall into this product category.

Similar bans have long been established in the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. For details regarding the EU's requirements on lighters, please refer to TÜV SÜD E-ssentials Vol. 25². ■

¹ Read Decision 2012/53/EU in full at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:027:0024:0024:EN:PDF>

² Download TÜV SÜD E-ssentials Vol. 25 from https://www.tuv-sud.in/APMKT/pdf/Softlines_E-ssentials_v25_05-2011.pdf

Hardlines

Draft regulation on the restriction of lead in jewellery under REACH Annex XVII



The proposal for the restriction of lead in jewellery was recently submitted to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) by the European Commission (EC). In order to minimise the risk of lead exposure by consumers throughout the European Union (EU), the draft Regulation proposed a new restriction under REACH Annex XVII Entry 63, which is expected to be adopted in August 2012.

The proposed restriction applies to both metallic and non-metallic parts in jewellery articles, imitation jewellery and hair accessories. There are also a number of exemptions.

Table C summarises the important points from the proposal, while the full details of the [draft Regulation](#) can be found on the EC website¹. ■

¹ See the draft Regulation in full at http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/tbt_repository/EU12_EN_1_1.pdf

Table C: Summary of proposed Entry 63 under Annex XVII

Scope	a) Jewellery, imitation jewellery and hair accessories including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bracelets, necklaces and rings ■ Piercing jewellery ■ Wrist watches and wrist-wear ■ Brooches and cufflinks b) Materials or parts that are intended for jewellery-making
Limit	0.05% by weight of lead in any individual parts of jewellery, imitation jewellery and hair accessories
Exemptions	a) Crystal glass as defined in Annex I of Directive 69/493/EEC ² b) Inaccessible internal components of watch timepieces c) Non-synthetic or reconstructed precious and semi-precious stones unless they have been treated with lead or its compounds d) Enamels e) Jewellery articles within the scope that have been placed on the EU market before [12 months after the date of entry into force of this proposed Regulation] f) Jewellery articles within the scope produced before 10 December 1961
Entry into force	The new restrictions are expected to be published in August 2012 ³ and will be applicable 12 months after its entry into force.

² Read Directive 69/493/EEC in full at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:1969L0493:20070101:EN:PDF>

³ View a summary of the Restriction process at <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/regulations/reach/restrictions/restriction-procedure/restrictions-process>

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