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Toys & Children Products

Crib bumper pads banned in Chicago

The Chicago City Council has passed an ordinance (#02011-5505) banning the sale of crib bumper pads in the city of Chicago, Illinois¹. This ordinance amends Chapter 7-36 of Municipal Code by adding a new section regarding crib bumper pads under the toy safety requirements.

The details of the ordinance are as follows:

Definitions:

- "Crib" means any bed with barred or latticed sides designed for an infant or toddler.
- "Crib bumper pad" means any padding material, including but not limited to a roll of stuffed fabric, which is designed for placement within a crib to cushion one or more of the crib's inner sides adjacent to the crib mattress.

¹ Read Ordinance #02011-5505 of the city of Chicago in full at <http://chicago.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=923695&GUID=AF2C04B0-6D16-4B2D-8618-8E894C09B951&Options=Advanced&Search>

The Ban:

- No person shall expose for sale, sell, lease, offer for sale, or offer for lease any crib bumper pad as a separate item or as an accessory to a crib in the city of Chicago.

Effective Date:

This ordinance has not yet been published in Municipal Code of Chicago, and once it has, it will take effect 180 days after the publication.

While Chicago becomes the first city banning crib bumper pads, Maryland has also been discussing whether to ban the sale of crib bumper pads within the state. The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene of Maryland² had several meetings regarding the use of crib bumper pads but is yet to come to a conclusion. With rising concerns on crib safety throughout the states, the Consumer Product

² Visit Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Webpage on Crib Bumpers at <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/news/crib/bumpers.html>



Safety Commission (CPSC) is urged to take action on the use of crib bumper pads after its implementation of the mandatory crib safety rule. ■

Softlines, Hardlines, Electricals & Electronics, Toys & Children Products and Health & Beauty

Sixth public consultation on 20 potential SVHCs kicks off in EU

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has announced that the 45-day public consultation has begun for 20 substances proposed to be included in the Candidate List as Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs).

The public consultation began on 29 August 2011 and will end on 13 October 2011. Anyone (EU and non-EU companies, individuals and organisations) can submit comments on the hazardous properties that qualify the substances as SVHCs, as well as comments

on the substance identity. Any comments on uses, exposure and availability of safer alternatives or techniques submitted during this consultation will be mainly used during the next phase when substances will be selected for authorisation.

Among the 20 proposed SVHCs, nineteen substances are nominated due to their carcinogenic and/or toxic for reproduction properties, while 4-*tert*-octylphenol is nominated due to its endocrine disrupting

properties and potential for serious effects to the environment (see Table A, next page). The same two refractory ceramic fibres that were included in the Candidate List in January 2010 are included in this consultation, with their definitions widened in order to cover all types of refractory ceramic fibres used in the EU.

Readers are reminded that once new SVHCs are included in the Candidate List, certain obligations may apply if the concentration is present at > 0.1% w/w in articles. ■

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Table A: 20 Substances under 45-day public consultation in EU

Substance Name	CAS Number	Potential Uses (as provided by the ECHA)
1,2-Dichloroethane	(CAS 107-06-2)	Mainly used for manufacture of other substances. Minor uses as solvent in the chemical and pharmaceutical industry.
2,2'-Dichloro-4,4'-methylenedianiline (MOCA)	(CAS 101-14-4)	Mainly used as curing agent in resins and in the production of polymer articles and also for manufacture of other substances. The substance may further be used in construction and arts.
2-Methoxyaniline, o-Anisidine	(CAS 90-04-0)	Mainly used in the manufacture of dyes for tattooing and coloration of paper, polymers and aluminium foil.
4-(1,1,3,3-Tetramethylbutyl)phenol, (4-tert-Octylphenol)	(CAS 140-66-9)	Mainly used in the manufacture of polymer preparations and of ethoxylates. Further used as a component in adhesives, coatings, inks and rubber articles.
Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres (RCF)	(CAS ---)	Refractory ceramic fibres are used for high-temperature insulation, almost exclusively in industrial applications (insulation of industrial furnaces and equipment, equipment for the automotive and aircraft/aerospace industry) and in fire protection (buildings and industrial process equipment).
Arsenic acid	(CAS 7778-39-4)	Mainly used to remove gas bubbles from ceramic glass melt and in the production of laminated printed circuit boards
Bis(2-methoxyethyl) ether	(CAS 111-96-6)	Used primarily as a reaction solvent or process chemical in a wide variety of applications. Used also as solvent for battery electrolytes, and possibly in other products such as sealants, adhesives, fuels and automotive care products.
Bis(2-methoxyethyl) phthalate	(CAS 117-82-8)	Main uses in the past were as plasticiser in polymeric materials and paints, lacquers and varnishes, including printing inks.
Calcium arsenate	(CAS 7778-44-1)	Calcium arsenate is present in complex raw materials imported for manufacture of copper, lead and a range of precious metals. It appears mainly to be used as precipitating agent in copper smelting and to manufacture diarsenic trioxide. However, most of the substance seems to be disposed of as waste.
Dichromium tris(chromate)	(CAS 24613-89-6)	Mainly used in mixtures for metal surface treatment in the aeronautic/aerospace, steel and aluminium coating sectors.
Formaldehyde, oligomeric reaction products with aniline (technical MDA)	(CAS 25214-70-4)	Mainly used for manufacture of other substances. Minor uses are as hardener for epoxy resins, e.g. for the production of rolls, pipes and moulds, and as well for adhesives.
Lead azide and Lead diazide	(CAS 13424-46-9)	Mainly used as initiator or booster in detonators for both civilian and military uses and as initiator in pyrotechnic devices.
Lead dipicrate	(CAS 6477-64-1)	Lead dipicrate is an explosive like lead diazide and lead styphnate. It may be used in low amounts in detonator mixtures together with the two other mentioned lead compounds.
Lead styphnate	(CAS 15245-44-0)	Mainly used as a primer for small calibre and rifle ammunition. Other common uses are in munition pyrotechnics, powder actuated devices and detonators for civilian use.
N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC)	(CAS 127-19-5)	Used as solvent, mainly in the manufacture of various substances and in the production of fibres for clothing and other applications. Also used as reagent, and in products such as industrial coatings, polyimide films, paint strippers and ink removers.
Pentazinc chromate octahydroxide	(CAS 49663-84-5)	Mainly used in coatings in the vehicle coating and aeronautic/aerospace sectors.
Phenolphthalein	(CAS 77-09-8)	Mainly used as a laboratory agent (in pH indicator solutions), for the production of pH-indicator paper and in medicinal products.
Potassium hydroxyoctaoxidizinc-atedichromate	(CAS 11103-86-9)	Mainly used in coatings in the aeronautic/aerospace, steel and aluminium coil coating and vehicle coating sectors.
Trilead diarsenate	(CAS 3687-31-8)	Trilead diarsenate is present in complex raw materials imported for manufacture of copper, lead and a range of precious metals. The trilead diarsenate contained in the raw materials is in the metallurgical refinement process transformed to calcium arsenate and diarsenic trioxide. Whereas most of the calcium arsenate appears to be disposed of as waste, the diarsenic trioxide is used further.
Zirconia Aluminosilicate Refractory Ceramic Fibres (Zr-RCF)	(CAS ---)	Refractory ceramic fibres are used for high-temperature insulation, almost exclusively in industrial applications (insulation of industrial furnaces and equipment, equipment for the automotive and aircraft/aerospace industry) and in fire protection (buildings and industrial process equipment).

Additional references:

1. Read the ECHA Press Release including potential uses at http://echa.europa.eu/news/pr/201108/pr_11_20_svhc_consultation_20110829_en.asp
2. Visit the public consultation webpage at http://echa.europa.eu/consultations/authorisation/svhc/svhc_cons_en.asp
3. Find out more about the authorisation process at http://guidance.echa.europa.eu/authorisation_en.htm
4. See the official Candidate List at http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_table_en.asp
5. Read about the Candidate List obligations at http://echa.europa.eu/chem_data/authorisation_process/candidate_list_obligations_en.asp

Hardlines, Electricals & Electronics and Toys & Children Products

Two new exemptions added to RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC

On 10 September 2011, the EU published in Official Journal Decision 2011/534/EU amending the RoHS Directive 2002/95/EC¹.

The two new exemptions are:

- **Exemption 7c-IV:** Lead in PZT based dielectric ceramic materials for capacitors being part of integrated circuits or discrete semiconductors;
- **Exemption 40:** Cadmium in photoresistors for analogue optocouplers applied in professional audio equipment. This exemption expires on 31 December 2013.

It should be noted that exemption 40 is very similar to exemption 35 which expired on 31 December 2009. However, the scope in exemption 40 has been narrowed down to only "analogue optocouplers" as opposed to "optocouplers" in exemption 35, which carried a wider scope for the expired exemption.

These new exemptions are effective from the date of publication. ■



¹ Download Decision 2011/534/EU in full at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:234:0044:0045:EN:PDF>

Your regional Retail contacts worldwide

Asia Pacific

TÜV SÜD Asia Pacific
3 Science Park Drive
#04-01, The Franklin
Singapore 118223
+65 6427 4751
info@tuv-sud.sg

Americas

TÜV SÜD America
10 Centennial Drive
Peabody, MA 01960
USA
+1 800 888 0123
info@tuvam.com

Western Europe

TÜV SÜD Product Service GmbH
Ridlerstr. 65
80339 Munich
Germany
+49 180 332 42 42
productservice@tuev-sued.de

Central & Eastern Europe

TÜV SÜD Central Eastern Europe s.r.o.
Novodvorská 994/138
142 21 Praha 4
Czech Republic
+420 239 046 800
info@tuv-sud.cz

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