



Future focus on Candidate List substances present in articles

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency and the Danish Consumer Council are planning an information campaign on Candidate List substances in articles (goods) targeted at non-professionals to be launched this autumn.

This means that enterprises can expect an increased demand for information about Candidate List substances. Therefore, now is a good time for enterprises to prepare for the need to collect knowledge about Candidate List substances present in their own goods.

What are Candidate List substances?

The Candidate List is the European Chemicals Agency's (ECHA¹) list of chemicals of very high concern. Politicians wish to phase out the use of these substances over time.

The general public is entitled to be informed about the content of Candidate List substances in articles, if the concentration is above 0.1% (w/w). This is stated in Article 33 of the REACH Regulation, which also specifies that the consumer must receive a reply within 45 days requesting information. Moreover, instructions about safe use must also be provided, if necessary.

Even though an article contains a Candidate List substance, this does not necessarily mean that it is hazardous. However, consumers may want to avoid such substances due to their undesirable properties.

What is next?

The campaign is to direct focus on consumers' right to information. A website and an app will be developed, which are to help the consumers find information on whether the article contains Candidate List substances.

This information will be linked to the barcode of the article in question. Consumers can then enter/scan the barcode of an item, and through a search in the database (GEPiR), they obtain contact information on the manufacturer (the enterprise responsible for the bar code) and mail a query about any Candidate List substances. Answers to consumer questions will be gathered in a database to benefit other consumers as well. This database means that consumers will get an

¹ <http://echa.europa.eu/>

immediate reply, if other consumers have already submitted questions about the article.

The campaign was inspired by Germany, where, in collaboration with an NGO, the environmental authorities have already developed an online form and are in the process of developing an app. The goal is to establish a European database which can be used by all the countries that want to join this system.

What will your enterprise have to do?

This area will receive a great deal of attention. Therefore, we recommend that you prepare your enterprise for dealing with the future queries already now.

For more information about the Candidate List and about the obligations of enterprises visit:

<http://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/candidate-list-substances-in-articles/communication-in-the-supply-chain>

For more information about the German solution visit:

<http://www.reach-info.de/auskunftsrecht.htm>(only in German)

http://www.bund.net/themen_und_projekte/chemie/auskunft_fordern/giftfrage_stellen/(only in German)

Yours sincerely

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