

RAC and SEAC agreed on 4 restriction proposals and evaluated 19 applications for authorisation, agreeing on 43 draft opinions for individual uses

Helsinki, 4 December 2014.

Restriction proposal on chrysotile

RAC adopted its opinion, and SEAC agreed on a draft opinion, in support of the ECHA proposal, made on request of the European Commission, to amend the current derogation for diaphragms in electrolysis installations in the existing restriction (entry 6 in the Annex XVII to REACH). The proposal aims to introduce a time limit to the current derogation on the use of chrysotile until 2025 and new reporting duties for the two companies involved.

The 60-day public consultation on the SEAC draft opinion will be launched in December 2014. SEAC plans to adopt its final opinion by March 2015.

Restriction proposal on cadmium and its compounds in artist paints

RAC adopted its opinion, and SEAC agreed on a draft opinion, on cadmium and its compounds in artists' paints, not supporting the proposal from Sweden to restrict the placing on the market and use of cadmium and its compounds in artists' paints covered by TARIC codes 3213 and 3212. The reason for the proposed action by Sweden was a concern for human health via the environment. During use and cleaning procedures cadmium based artists' paints are released to the waste water. When the resulting sewage sludge is applied as fertiliser in the agriculture, the cadmium compounds used in artists' paints will eventually end up in foodstuffs. RAC found the risks to be negligible.

The 60-day public consultation on the SEAC draft opinion will be launched in December 2014. SEAC plans to adopt its final opinion by March 2015.

Restriction proposal on cadmium and its compounds in paints

SEAC adopted its final opinion in support of the ECHA proposal, made on request of the European Commission, to restrict cadmium and its compounds in paints. The proposed restriction is an amendment to an existing restriction (entry 23 in the Annex XVII of REACH). In the current entry, only "use" is restricted and there is no concentration limit. The reason for the amendment is that "use" could be interpreted to mean intentional use only, thus the

restriction might be understood as not covering potential cadmium impurities. Secondly, as the current entry does not provide a limit value for cadmium in those paints, the enforcement of the restriction is challenging. Having considered the three comments received during the public consultation on the draft opinion agreed in September 2014, SEAC confirmed its opinion that the proposed restriction is the most appropriate EU wide measure to address the identified risks in terms of proportionality. The main benefits from the proposed restriction would come via improved clarity of the restriction entry and improved effectiveness of any enforcement activities.

Restriction proposal on 1-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP)

SEAC adopted its final opinion on The Netherlands proposal to restrict the manufacturing and use of NMP. SEAC confirmed its draft opinion of September 2014 that the proposed restriction is the most appropriate EU wide measure to address the identified risks in terms of cost-effectiveness. Having considered the thirteen comments received during the public consultation on the draft opinion agreed in September 2014, SEAC has made some adjustments to the justification of its opinion, including a suggestion to extend the implementation time for the wire coating sector.

Consumer exposure to benzene contained in natural gas

At the request of the ECHA's Executive Director, RAC assessed the information contained in the RIVM report on the risk of an increased concentration limit of benzene in natural gas and in particular the risk assessment performed on consumers exposed to benzene contained in natural gas.

RAC agreed to the conclusions in the report that, where benzene is contained in natural gas in concentrations between 0.1% (wt/wt) and 0.1% (vol/vol), a ca. 4-fold difference, the risks for consumers during cooking and heating are adequately controlled as far as the exposure conditions set out in the RIVM report apply.

Applications for authorisation

The following final opinions were agreed by the Committees:

Substance	No. of applications (applicants)	No. of uses	Uses applied for
Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)	1 (1)	1 out of 3	Use in ceramic sheets and printing pastes for production of capacitors and lambda sensor elements
Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)	1 (1)	1 out of 3	Industrial use in ceramic sheets and printing pastes for production of capacitors and lambda sensor elements
Total final opinions (combined applicants and uses): 2			

The following draft opinions were agreed by the Committees and will be sent to the applicants for their comments before they are finalised by the Committees:

Substance	No. of applications	No. of uses	Uses applied for

	(applic-ants)		
Lead sulfochromate yellow (C.I. pigment yellow 34) and lead chromate molybdate sulphate red (C.I. pigment red 104) (lead chromate pigments)	1 (1)	2 x 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution and mixing pigment powder in an industrial environment into solvent-based paints for non-consumer use; • Industrial application of paints on metal surfaces (such as machines vehicles, structures, signs, road furniture, coil coating etc.) • Professional, non-consumer application of paints on metal surfaces (such as machines, vehicles, structures, signs, road furniture etc.) or as road marking • Distribution and mixing pigment powder in an industrial environment into liquid or solid premix to colour plastic/plasticised articles for non consumer use • Industrial use of solid or liquid colour premixes and pre-compounds containing pigment to colour plastic or plasticised articles for non-consumer use • Professional use of solid or liquid colour premixes and pre-compounds containing pigment in the application of hotmelt road marking
Hexabromo-cyclododecane (HBCDD)	1 (13)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of flame retarded expanded polystyrene (EPS) to solid unexpanded pellets using HBCDD as the flame retardant additive (for onward use in building applications) • Manufacture of flame retarded expanded polystyrene (EPS) articles for use in building applications
Diarsenic trioxide	1 (1)	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial use of diarsenic trioxide as a processing aid to activate the absorption and desorption of carbon dioxide by potassium carbonate from synthesis gas formed in the production of ammonia
Trichloroethylene	1 (1)	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of trichloroethylene as a solvent for the removal and recovery of resin from dyed cloth • Use of trichloroethylene as a solvent in a process to recover and purify resin from process water
Total draft opinions (combined applicants and uses): 41			

In order to increase efficiency of the Committees' work, RAC and SEAC also agreed on a streamlined Working Procedure for developing opinions on the applications for authorisation.

Further information

[Authorisation under REACH](#)

[Restriction under REACH](#)