

## Call for evidence on the use of the phthalates DEHP, DBP, BBP and DIBP in articles

### Background document

ECHA has recently announced it will work jointly with the Danish Environmental Protection Agency (DEPA) to investigate the need for a restriction, according to Article 69(2)<sup>1</sup>, on the placing on the market of articles containing the following four phthalates listed on Annex XIV with a sunset date of 21 February 2015:

- **Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP)**
- **Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP)**
- **Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)**
- **Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)**

The **objective** of this call for evidence is to gather concrete information on:

a) **Uses** of the four phthalates in articles on the EU market. ECHA and the DEPA have identified that the following article groups may contain some of the four phthalates. Information on other articles is welcome:

- Flooring and heavy wall covering
- Insulation on wires and cables
- Tablecloth, curtains and similar items made of PVC film or coated fabrics
- Plastic coated wallpaper/tapestry
- Furniture
- Water and air mattresses
- Automotive plastic components
- Plastic building and construction materials
- Bathing equipment, e.g., (inflatable) pools, swim-coats/wings/belts, etc.<sup>2</sup>
- Balls made of PVC, PVC-film and coated fabrics for playing and physical exercises<sup>2</sup>
- Footwear, e.g., sandals and slippers/flip flops and thermo boots made partly or completely of PVC
- Bags, brief/suitcases and similar items with, e.g. thin PVC film typically used inside the bags and cases, PVC coated fabrics and leather-look, and PVC marks, figures, profiles sewn, welded or otherwise attached to the outer surface of bags and cases
- Plastic tubing, conveyors, storage and packaging materials
- Others, e.g. false nails, sex toys, animal toys, erasing rubber

#### Have you notified the substances in articles?

If you are a producer or importer of articles, you are encouraged to assess if your notifications of substances in articles (Article 7(2) of the REACH Regulation) should be updated after reviewing the information contained in this call. If you have not submitted such a notification, please do so at <http://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/candidate-list-substances-in-articles/notification-of-substances-in-articles>.

#### Why is this important for you?

**It is important for respondents to ensure all relevant articles are covered, as ECHA and DEPA are approaching the restriction with a view to ban all uses of the four phthalates in articles and to utilise this information to assess where derogations are required.**

<sup>1</sup> See <http://echa.europa.eu/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/restriction/echas-activities-on-restrictions>

<sup>2</sup> Except items classified as toys and childcare articles, as these containing DEHP, DBP and BBP are covered by existing restriction entry 51

- b) **Phthalate content** in articles. When providing this information, please consider including the following about the articles and the plasticiser content:
- o share of plasticised PVC in a certain article (e.g., sandals);
  - o total share of plasticiser(s) (also other than DEHP/BBP/DBP/DIBP) in the plasticised PVC in the article;
  - o share of DEHP/BBP/DBP/DIBP (each separately) of the plasticisers used in the article;
  - o frequency (or prevalence) of the use in specific articles of these four phthalates vs any alternatives;
  - o information on the content of the four phthalates in non-PVC articles.
- c) **Phthalate migration** rates from the articles (if possible also mentioning the phthalate content)
- d) **Other relevant information on exposure** to the four phthalates from articles (e.g., abrasion from articles during use), food and in/outdoor environment
- e) **Information on alternatives**, e.g., possible technical or economic difficulties (or lack of such difficulties) for substitution, prices of alternative plasticisers and other relevant information on substitution costs

Additional relevant information for the preparation of an Annex XV restriction dossier is also welcome.

This call for evidence targets interested parties such as companies (manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, importers etc.), trade associations, scientific bodies and any other stakeholders holding relevant information.

In addition, ECHA has appointed Amec Foster Wheeler and COWI A/S to collect up-to-date information on compliance control costs for the four phthalates. Data on the industry practices to ensure compliance with EU regulation, particularly REACH restrictions on substances in articles, will be collected and the expected compliance control costs will be assessed.

ECHA invites interested parties to respond to:

- the call for evidence by **24 June 2015** by clicking [here](#).
- the questionnaire on compliance control costs by clicking [here](#). **The deadline has been extended to 24 June 2015.**

For any clarifications on the call for evidence and the compliance costs survey, please contact: [restriction-survey@echa.europa.eu](mailto:restriction-survey@echa.europa.eu).