

Call for evidence on flame retardants TCEP, TCPP and TDCP in polyurethane foams

Background document

ECHA's screening report identified a risk for children from exposure to the flame retardants TCEP, TCPP and TDCP¹ in flexible polyurethane (PUR) foams in childcare articles and residential furniture. Therefore, ECHA recommends that a restriction proposal is prepared. This call for evidence aims to collect further information in support of a possible restriction proposal, as well as comments on the draft screening report and its conclusions.

TCEP, TCPP and TDCP belong to the family of organophosphate flame retardants (OPFRs). TCPP and TDCP are used amongst others as flame retardants in flexible PUR foams in articles such as baby mattresses, car safety seats, baby slings, and residential upholstered furniture.

TCPP is an all-round flame retardant for all types of flexible PUR foams with a registered volume under REACH of 10 000-100 000 tonnes/year. The registered volume of TDCP under REACH is 1 000 – 10 000 tonnes per year. TDCP is more expensive and is used mainly for automotive applications. TCEP is currently not used in the EU, but may be present as an impurity in other commercial flame retardants or in imported articles.

The exposure assessment in the screening report is targeted to the exposure of infants to TCEP, TCPP and TDCP in flexible PUR foam in childcare articles and in residential upholstered furniture. If a restriction report will be prepared, exposure from other uses and article groups may need further consideration. In addition, other exposure populations, such as adults, may be considered. Based on the screening assessment, a risk for carcinogenicity from exposure of infants to TCEP, TCPP and TDCP is identified. The highest risk was identified for baby mattresses.

Following the call for evidence, the final screening report will be sent to the European Commission. If the final screening report identifies a risk from exposure to TCEP, TCPP and TDCP in polyurethane (PUR) foams in articles, the Commission may task ECHA to prepare a restriction proposal. The Danish EPA has supported ECHA in the preparation of the screening report and will continue to provide support in case a restriction proposal will be prepared.

Anyone who could be affected by a possible restriction or who holds relevant information is kindly invited to provide responses by 8 February 2018.

For any clarifications, please contact Maarten Roggeman (maarten.roggeman@echa.europa.eu)

¹ TCPP = tris(2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate; TDCP = tris[2-chloro-1-(chloromethyl)ethyl] phosphate; and TCEP = tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate