EU – Organotin Restrictions Extended to Consumer Goods

Beginning on 1 July 2010 current EU restrictions for the use of certain organotin (organostannic) compounds will be extended to cover many consumer products by Decision 2009/425/EC. The existing bans on the use of organotins in anti-fouling paints/materials and for the treatment of industrial waters will remain.

Organotins are a family of substances in which organic (carbon-based) groups are bonded to one or more of the available four sites on a tin atom. Generally the mono-, di-, tri-substituted organotins are used, with the “spare” sites occupied by other chemical groups. Certain organotins have endocrine disruptive effects on aquatic organisms and can pose a risk to human health by immunotoxicity (suppress the immune system) and even be toxic to reproduction.

General

For each of the new restrictions articles and mixtures placed on the market prior to the date shown will not be subject to the new restrictions.

Each maximum concentration is stated with respect to the weight of tin rather than the weight of the organotin compound(s) present.

A summary table with examples of the affected products is included at the end of this Sparkle.

Tri-substituted organostannic compounds

From 1 July 2010, articles placed on the market shall contain a maximum concentration of tri-substituted organostannic compounds (e.g. tributyltin (TBT) compounds and triphenyltin (TPT) compounds) equivalent to 0.1 % by weight of tin, in the article or part thereof.

These requirements apply both to articles supplied to the public and other users too.

Dioclytin (DOT) compounds

From 1 January 2012 the following articles and mixtures placed on the market for supply to, or use by, the general public shall contain a maximum concentration of dioclytin (DOT) compounds equivalent of 0.1 % by weight of tin in the article, or part thereof.

- Textile articles intended to come into contact with the skin
- Gloves
- Footwear or part of footwear intended to come into contact with the skin
- Wall and floor coverings
- Childcare articles
- Female hygiene products
- Nappies
- Two-component room temperature vulcanisation moulding kits (RTV-2 moulding kits)

Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds

From 1 January 2012 articles and mixtures, except as listed below, placed on the market for supply to the general public shall contain a maximum concentration of dibutyltin (DBT) compounds equivalent of 0.1 % by weight of tin in the mixture or the article, or part thereof.

From 1 January 2015 the following articles and mixtures placed on the market for supply to the general public shall contain a maximum concentration of dibutyltin (DBT) compounds equivalent of 0.1 % by weight of tin in the mixture or the article, or part thereof.

• One-component and two-component room temperature vulcanisation sealants (RTV-1 and RTV-2 sealants) and adhesives.
• Paints and coatings containing DBT compounds as catalysts when applied on articles.
• Soft polyvinyl chloride (PVC) profiles whether by themselves or coextruded with hard PVC.
• Fabrics coated with PVC containing DBT compounds as stabilisers when intended for outdoor applications.
• Outdoor rainwater pipes, gutters and fittings, as well as covering material for roofing and façades.

Exemptions:

• Articles and mixtures solely not intended for supply to the general public (e.g. only for professional or industrial use).
  Dual use articles and mixtures supplied to both the general public and other users are therefore not exempt and will have to comply with these restrictions.

• Materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, as covered by the framework MACF Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004.
  The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Directive 2002/72/EC, as amended, includes requirements for those organotins permitted in food contact plastics.

Should you have any queries on the above information, please contact: Richard Smith, tel: +44 (0)116 263 9620 / fax: +44 (0)116 282 4586 / e-mail: richard.smith@intertek.com

## Summary of the New Organotin Compounds Restrictions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Organotin</th>
<th>Maximum Conc.</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Examples of products/uses</th>
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</table>
| 1 July 2010| Tri-substituted organotin compounds (e.g. tributyltin (TBT) and Triphenyl tin (TPT)) | 0.1 % by weight of tin | All articles placed on the market                                      | Biocidal treatment of imported textiles and other articles. Known examples include:  
• Non-allergenic pillows  
• Insoles for shoes  
• Padding of cycling shorts  
• Foot spray |
| 1 January 2012 | Dioctyltin (DOT) compounds | 0.1 % by weight of tin | Articles and mixtures supplied to the general public          |  
• Textile articles intended to come into contact with the skin  
• Gloves  
• Footwear or part of footwear intended to come into contact with the skin  
• Wall and floor coverings  
• Childcare articles  
• Female hygiene products  
• Nappies  
• Two-component room temperature vulcanisation moulding kits (RTV-2 moulding kits)  
• Prints on T-shirts and other garments  
• PVC gloves  
• PVC sandals  
• PVC products  
• PVC articles  
• Sanitary panty liners  
• Non-woven polypropylene top sheet, elastics and adhesives  
• Silicone moulding kits |

1 Tri-substituted organotins are no longer permitted for use as biocides within the EU.
### Summary of the New Organotin Compounds Restrictions

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</table>
| 1 January 2012 | Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds | 0.1 % by weight of tin | Articles, other than those listed below, supplied to the general public | • PVC products, PVC packaging and other PVC materials  
• Polyurethane foams, printing inks, surface coatings, adhesives, shoes and shoe soles  
• Polyester packaging materials and coatings                                      |
| 1 January 2015 | Dibutyltin (DBT) compounds | 0.1 % by weight of tin | Certain articles supplied to the general public | • One-component and two-component room temperature vulcanisation sealants (RTV-1 and RTV-2 sealants) and adhesives  
• DIY sealants and adhesives  
• Paints and coatings containing DBT compounds as catalysts when applied on articles  
• Soft polyvinyl chloride (PVC) profiles whether by themselves or coextruded with hard PVC  
• Fabrics coated with PVC containing DBT compounds as stabilisers when intended for outdoor applications  
• Outdoor rainwater pipes, gutters and fittings, covering material for roofing and façades  
• Window frames, cable ducts etc  
• Outdoor furniture, tents, awnings etc |