



EU Extends Ban on Dimethyl Fumarate (DMF)

Further to Sparkle Volume 432, the EU ban on products containing dimethyl fumarate (DMF) has now been extended until 15 March 2012 by Decision 2011/135/EU.

The maximum limit for DMF remains at 0.1 mg/kg of the weight of the product or part of the product.

The Challenge:

Dimethyl fumarate (DMF) has been used as a fungicide to prevent mould-growth on leather goods, such as furniture, footwear and leather accessories, typically added in small pouches from which DMF evaporates and impregnates the leather. However DMF can also penetrate through the clothing onto consumers' skin where it caused painful skin contact dermatitis, including itching, irritation, redness, and burns; in some cases, acute respiratory troubles were reported. The dermatitis was particularly difficult to treat.

Hence the presence of DMF was considered to pose a serious risk and products containing it banned from being placed on the EU market by Decision 2009/251/EC, following national restrictions in Belgium, Spain and France and reported incidents linked to DMF in many other Member States. These restrictions have been taken under fast-track provisions in Article 13 of the General Product Safety Directive 2001/95/EC, which remain valid for a maximum of 12 months. Hence this is the second renewal of the interim EU ban until permanent restrictions are applied under the REACH Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

Our Solution:

Intertek has developed precise analytical methods to verify the concentration of DMF in leather. By leveraging our local services and global network, we enable our customers to dedicate their primary energies to their core business activities. We offer comprehensive programs and services which draw on our industry specific knowledge and technical expertise. Please contact your local Intertek laboratory for further details of this and our other services.

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