



## EU Environment Report

June 2012

### CHEMICALS

#### ECHA adds 13 Substances of Very High Concern to REACH candidate list

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has added 13 substances of very high concern to the REACH Candidate List. Among the new SVHCs are four dyes, aluminosilicate refractory ceramic fibres, zirconia aluminosilicate refractory ceramic fibres, TEGDME, EGDME and formamide. There are now 84 substances on the ECHA's candidate list. Producers and importers of products containing any of these substances have until 17 December 2012 to notify ECHA if they are using the substance in sufficient quantities and concentrations.

To view the candidate list, click here: <http://echa.europa.eu/web/guest/candidate-list-table>

#### ECHA puts ten new substances up for REACH public consultation

The ECHA has also initiated a public consultation on ten new substances to be included in its Authorisation list. It plans to recommend the following substances:

1. formaldehyde, oligomeric reaction products with aniline (technical MDA)
2. arsenic acid
3. dichromium tris(chromate)
4. strontium chromate
5. potassium hydroxyoctaoxodizincatedichromate
6. pentazinc chromate octahydroxide
7. bis(2-methoxyethyl) ether (diglyme)
8. N,N-dimethylacetamide (DMAC)
9. 1,2-dichloroethane (EDC)
10. 2,2'-dichloro-4,4'-methylenedianiline (MOCA)

The ECHA is inviting any interested parties to comment on the draft recommendations here: <http://www.echa.europa.eu/web/guest/addressing-chemicals-of-concern/authorisation/recommendation-for-inclusion-in-the-authorisation-list/consultation-on-the-draft-of-20-june-2012-of-echas-4th-recommendation>

The consultation runs until 19 September 2012.

#### EU General Court ruling grants court access to NGOs

In a case brought by NGOs Natuur en Milieu and PAN European, the European General Court has issued a ruling that grants NGOs the right to request internal reviews of decisions - including approvals, guidelines, and derogations - made by the European Commission. The NGOs had asked the Commission for a review of Regulation 149/2008, which provided for new, maximum limits for pesticides in food. The Commission denied the request because it did not meet the criteria in a

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*This newsletter briefly describes EU environment developments.*

*Due to the general nature of its content, this newsletter is not and should not be regarded as legal advice.*

2006 regulation applying the Aarhus convention to EU governing bodies. The Court accepted that the request had not met the criteria, but ruled that the criteria themselves were too narrow and incompatible with the convention, and annulled the Commission's decision not to hold a review.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Rio+20 ends with disappointment, but some success

The Rio+20 discussions have resulted in disappointment over a weaker text than envisaged by many environmental leaders. On the upside, agreements on various issues and institutional changes were made. The draft declaration commits governments to significantly cut marine litter by 2025, and includes stronger language on the implementation of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Participants also agreed on the need for international environmental governance reform and adopted a ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.

## ECO-DESIGN

### Commission Regulation implements new eco-design requirements for water pumps

On 26 June 2012, the Official Journal of the European Union published Regulation No. 547/2012 implementing Directive 2009/125/EC on eco-design requirements for water pumps. Water pumps were identified as a priority product for which eco-design requirements should be established, due to the potential identified for improving the use-phase electricity consumption of pumping systems. The minimum efficiency and information requirements for rotodynamic water pumps are outlined in Annex II of the regulation and will follow a timetable, with the first minimum efficiency requirements needing to be met from 1 January 2013.

The full text of the Regulation is available here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:165:0028:0036:EN:PDF>

## ENERGY

### EU agrees on energy efficiency directive

On 13 June, MEPs, EU member states, and the Commission finalised details for a new energy efficiency directive that aims to cut energy use by 15% by 2020. The directive is based on a compromise over energy suppliers' obligation to deliver an annual 1.5% energy savings to end users. Large companies will now be required to audit their energy use.

## POLLUTION

### New EU Regulation on light passenger and commercial vehicles emissions

On 4 June 2012, the Commission Regulation No 459/2012 on emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles entered into force. This amends previous Regulations from 2007 and 2008 to add a definition of a "direct injection engine". The new Regulation also extends the particle emissions limit for Euro 6 diesel vehicles to vehicles with a direct injection positive ignition engine, and replaces existing annexes with new versions.

The full text of the Regulation is available here: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:142:0016:0024:EN:PDF>

## New BAT guidelines for EU cement industry

A final draft of pollution abatement guidance for cement, lime and magnesium oxide manufacturing has been published by the European IPPC bureau. The existing document on best available techniques (BAT) needed to be aligned with the new Industrial Emissions Directive, under which draft revised guidelines, which are known as BREFS, are being produced. The main updates consist of the removal of the executive summary and a new preface.

The reference document is available here:

[http://eippcb.jrc.es/reference/BREF/CLM\\_FD\\_06\\_2012.pdf](http://eippcb.jrc.es/reference/BREF/CLM_FD_06_2012.pdf)

## WASTE

### EU publishes new rules on battery recycling

On 12 June, new technical rules on how to calculate the efficiency of battery recycling processes were published in the EU Official Journal. Recyclers will be required to report their annual recycling rates to member state authorities on 30 April every year, and the rules also enable recyclers to assess their compliance with minimum efficiency standards laid out in the 2006 batteries directive. The rules will apply from 2014.

The full text of the Regulation is available here: [http://eur-](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:151:0009:0021:EN:PDF)

[lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:151:0009:0021:EN:PDF](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:151:0009:0021:EN:PDF)

## OTHER

### Parliament backs Seveso III on major accident hazards

The European Parliament has approved revisions to the Seveso II directive on major accident hazards, to which the Member States agreed in March. Updates include stricter inspection rules at sites such as chemical works, oil terminals, and pesticide warehouses. The new rules also call for more transparency, and require inspections once a year for high-risk sites, and every three years for lower-risk sites.

## The Months Ahead

### 4 – 5 July

UK AD and Biogas 2012, Birmingham, UK

<http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/uk-ad-and-biogas-2012-12603>

### 4 – 6 July

The essentials of oil and gas commercial contracts and negotiations, London, UK

<http://www.iff-training.com/the-essentials-of-oil-and-gas-commercial-contracts-and-negotiations-training-course/133/>

### 8 – 12 July

Global Conference on Global Warming, Istanbul, Turkey

<http://www.gcgw.org>

### 9 – 11 July

Understanding the Energy Industry, London, UK

[http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/understanding-the-energy-industry//Understanding\\_the\\_Energy\\_Industry.pdf](http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/understanding-the-energy-industry//Understanding_the_Energy_Industry.pdf)

### 19 – 21 July

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Green Economics Conference: RIO+20: Rethinking the Growth, Oxford, UK

<http://www.greeneconomics.org.uk/papers/oxmain20124.pdf>

**1 – 2 August**

REACH & CLP, North Carolina, US

[http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/usachemicals//CQ8121\\_Informa\\_Reach\\_and\\_CLP\\_USA.pdf](http://www.informaglobalevents.com/appdata/downloads/usachemicals//CQ8121_Informa_Reach_and_CLP_USA.pdf)

**6 – 10 August**

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Urban Climate, Dublin, Ireland

<http://www.icuc8.org/>

**21 – 22 August**

World Congress on Earth Science & Climate Change, Chicago, Illinois, US

<http://www.omicsonline.org/earthscience2012/>

**26 – 30 August**

4<sup>th</sup> EuChemS Chemistry Congress, Prague, Czech Republic

<http://www.euchems-prague2012.cz/>

**29 – 31 August**

2<sup>nd</sup> Nordic International Conference on Climate Change Adaptation, Helsinki, Finland

<http://www.environment.fi/default.asp?contentid=406014&lan=en&clan=en>

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