Regulatory Alert: Dimethylfumarate (DMF) added to Annex XVII of the REACH Regulation

On June 5, 2012, Dimethylfumarate (DMF) in concentrations greater than 0.1mg/kg will be added to the list of banned products in the European Union under the REACH regulation (EC 1907/2006). The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) is a regulation for the protection of human health and the environment and includes a list of chemicals which have to be registered in accordance with the regulation. A number of these products are not allowed to be placed on the European market (Annex XVII of this regulation).

DMF is a biocide that prevents moulds that may deteriorate leather furniture or footwear during transport and storage in a humid climate. DMF is found in little pouches fixed inside furniture or added to footwear boxes. DMF causes damage when it comes in contact with consumers’ skin or can cause acute respiratory troubles.

What does it mean for you?

If you import leather shoes or furniture and DMF is added to the shipment, be aware that as of June 5, 2012 the amount of DMF contained in the product or product components cannot exceed 0.1mg/kg. This means that the use of DMF in articles at a concentration higher than 0.1 mg/kg is not allowed on the European Union’s market.

What to do?

If you import leather shoes, furniture or other articles for which DMF is used, to ensure that the concentrate is not higher that 0.1 mg/kg. Make sure that your company is up to date with this information, so when customs verifies the concentrate of DMF, you can prove that the content amount does not exceed 0.1 mg/kg. Furthermore, if chemicals are used in the articles that you import in the European Union, regularly check the REACH regulation. Annex XVII of this regulation is frequently updated with new chemicals for when a prohibition enters into force.

To avoid the risks of non-compliance, importers and exporters to the EU should:

- Communicate the new DMF requirement information with the appropriate parties in your company
- Carefully monitor the concentration of Dimethylfumarate (DMF) in your products

Advisory References:


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