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DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES
Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENVIRONMENT
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Dr Sharon McGuinness
Executive Director ECHA
sharon.mcguinness@echa.europa.eu

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF
DR SHARON MCGUINNESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECHA**

Subject: Request to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to prepare guidelines for the measurement of formaldehyde releases from articles and formaldehyde concentrations in the interior of vehicles in accordance with Appendix 14 of Commission Regulation 2023/1464 amending Annex XVII to REACH (entry 77).

1. BACKGROUND

On 14 July 2023 the European Commission adopted Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1464 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards formaldehyde and formaldehyde releases. The Regulation introduced Entry 77 to Annex XVII which sets the limit value for formaldehyde emission to 0,062 mg/m³ for furniture and wood-based articles, applied to the whole complex product. The same limit is established for formaldehyde concentration in the interior of road vehicles. The entry also sets a formaldehyde emission limit of 0,080 mg/m³ for all other articles.

Moreover, the Regulation requires that the concentration of formaldehyde emitted from articles to be used in indoor environments should be measured under the specific reference conditions listed in Appendix 14 to ensure harmonised implementation of this restriction. The Regulation allows to use various test methods, some of which are undertaken under different conditions, provided that there is a scientifically valid correlation of test results between the method used and the reference conditions set in Appendix 14.

Appendix 14 to Regulation 2023/1464 sets the reference conditions for the measurement of formaldehyde released to indoor air from articles and the formaldehyde concentration in the interior of vehicles, as referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Entry 77.

As a result of the discussions within the REACH Committee, the European Commission committed to ask ECHA to develop guidelines to support stakeholders and enforcement authorities with the implementation and enforcement of this restriction.

2. MANDATE

The European Commission requests ECHA to prepare guidelines for the measurement of formaldehyde emissions and concentrations in line with the requirements defined in Appendix 14 of Commission Regulation 2023/1464.

The guidelines should include as a minimum:

- a) Description of appropriate test methods to measure formaldehyde emissions from articles and formaldehyde concentrations in indoor space of vehicles and examples of data obtained with these methods.
- b) Clarification of the reference conditions listed in Appendix 14 and additional factors that may affect the test results.
- c) Correlation of results obtained by testing under other than reference conditions. Information on suitable methods to be used for which a scientific data correlation exists between test results obtained under the reference conditions laid down in Appendix 14 and non-reference conditions and examples on how the scientific correlation should be applied to practical cases.

The guidelines should be developed by ECHA in collaboration with the European Commission.

During the development of the guidelines, information should be gathered by ECHA via the involvement of external stakeholders, including relevant representatives from industry, competent authorities and/or laboratory experts (e.g., CEN, the Forum).

3. TIMING

The guidelines should be published by ECHA on its website within the first quarter of 2025.

To facilitate collaboration on this file, we invite ECHA to keep the European Commission regularly informed on the progress of the development of the guidelines.

We would appreciate receiving a confirmatory letter that our request has been accepted.

(e-sign)
Kristin Schreiber
DG Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship and SMEs

(e-sign)
Aurel Ciobanu-Dordea
DG Environment