

The procedure omits some steps of a standard restriction, such as a public consultation of the proposal and the opinions of ECHA's Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Assessment (SEAC).

Even if not required by the REACH procedure, the Commission consulted stakeholders on the scope and the list of possibly relevant substances to obtain more information on their use and presence in the concerned products.

The Commission also organised a technical workshop with stakeholders and asked for feedback on the proposal.

FINAL ADOPTION IN AUTUMN?

The Member States first discussed the proposal at the REACH Committee in February. The vote took place on 26 April.

It will be published in the Official Journal of the EU after scrutiny by the Parliament and Council.

The regulation will enter into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal. However, companies have 24 months to apply the law, so around autumn 2020 the restricted substances should no longer be present in the textiles mentioned in the scope.



EURATEX 'HAPPY WITH THE PROGRESS'

The **European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)** has worked closely with the European Commission and other stakeholders for more than two years to ensure that the restriction can effectively protect European consumers, can be enforced and is also feasible for industry.

"An intense exchange of information between the Commission and stakeholders increased the understanding of our sector-specific technical requirements and the actual industrial manufacturing processes. We were particularly pleased with the very effective technical workshop organised by the Commission, which brought together experts from industry, Member States and civil society organisations. That showed clearly how alignment can be reached through open discussion," says *Ms Dunja Drmač*, Sustainability Officer at EURATEX.

What EURATEX is still advocating are: clarity in the scope to avoid different interpretations and



Dunja Drmač.

applications across the EU single market and validated and harmonised test methods, the absence of which might lead to ambiguity over compliance. "These are essential for providing legal certainty," she says.

Further information:

European Commission news on restricting the use of hazardous chemicals in textiles
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/news_en.htm

Draft Commission regulation
http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/index.cfm?do=search.documentdetail&Dos_ID=15915&DS_ID=55248&Version=4

Statement of the European Consumer Organisation, BEUC (ECHA's accredited stakeholder)
<http://www.beuc.eu/publications/eu-rightly-limits-toxic-chemicals-textiles-could-have-better-protected-consumers/html>

Statement of seven NGOs ahead of REACH committee meeting
<http://env-health.org/resources/letters/article/seven-ngos-ask-for-stricter-3660>

REACH restrictions (European Commission)
https://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/chemicals/reach/restrictions_en

Basics of restriction
<https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/restriction>

SIMPLIFIED RESTRICTION PROCEDURE

- **Article 68(2) of REACH** provides a simplified procedure to restrict substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic for reproduction (CMR), category 1A and 1B, on their own, in mixtures or in articles that could be used by consumers.
- The **formal procedure is initiated by the European Commission**.
- **Does not include** some of the formal steps required to initiate a restriction under the standard procedure, such as the **preparation of a restriction dossier, a public consultation, opinions by RAC and SEAC** and a **consultation of the Enforcement Forum**.
- The Commission **used the simplified procedure for the first time on articles** when restricting polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in rubber and plastic. This restriction was adopted in December 2013.
- The current restriction proposed for CMRs in textiles is the **first of its kind using the structured approach** agreed with Member States and stakeholders in 2014-2015