

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products - Information

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Restriction of NPEO in Washable Textiles

Textile products, that can reasonably be expected to be washed with water during their normal life-cycle may not be brought into circulation if the content of nonylphenoethoxylate (NPEO) is equal to or exceeds 0.01% (100 mg/kg).

This regulation enters into force on 3 February 2021, after a transitional period of 60 months.

Use of NPEO:

NPEO is frequently used as washing and cleaning agent in textile- and leather-processing and has been banned in the EU. During foreseeable and common washing of textiles with water NPEO is released to the environment and presents a risk to aquatic organisms. During the degradation of NPEO in the environment, carcinogenic alkyl phenols are generated which pose additional risks.

A different situation arises for alkyl phenols, especially nonylphenol, the basic building block of NPEO. Nonylphenol is found less in the washable residues of detergents in textiles and leather. Nonylphenol is found mainly in polymers; this is due to it being a contamination of the frequently used stabilizer tris(nonylphenyl)-phosphite.

Restriction of NPEO:

Currently NPEO as well as nonylphenol are listed as SVHC (compare Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern for Authorisation) and there is a duty to inform, if a product contains more than 0,1%.

The restriction applies only to textiles and textile materials of articles, that are made up by at least 80 wt.% of textile fibers. This would encompass clothing, accessories, home textiles, fibers, yarns, fabric and knitted fabric.

The restriction does not apply to the marketing of second-hand articles, which have been produced from recycled textiles without use of NPEO.

The regulation is intended for publication in the fourth quarter of 2015. After a traditional period of 5 years after publication, all textile articles that are placed on the market should conform to this regulation.

This is in parallel to a development that many trade chains have agreed upon with Greenpeace (Detox).

The entry 46a in Annex XVII of Regulation (EU) 1907/2006 is as follows:

<p>“Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE) (C₂H₄O)_nC₁₅H₂₄O</p>	<p>1. Shall not be placed on the market after 3 February 2021 in textile articles which can reasonably be expected to be washed in water during their normal lifecycle, in concentrations equal to or greater than 0,01 % by weight of that textile article or of each part of the textile article.</p> <p>2. Paragraph 1 shall not apply to the placing on the market of second- hand textile articles or of new textile articles produced, without the use of NPE, exclusively from recycled textiles.</p> <p>3. For the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 2, “textile article” means any unfinished, semi-finished or finished product which is composed of at least 80 % textile fibres by weight, or any other product that contains a part which is composed of at least 80 % textile fibres by weight, including products such as clothing, accessories, interior textiles, fibres, yarn, fabrics and knitted panels.’</p>
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Further information on the topic can be received from:

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