



Notification Number: 2009/590/UK

The Detergents Regulations 2010

Date received : 30/10/2009

End of Standstill : 01/02/2010

Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2009) D/52571

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2009/0590/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahajuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 200902571.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2009 0590 UK EN 01-02-2010 30-10-2009 UK NOTIF 01-02-2010

2. Member State

UK

3. Department Responsible

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

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3. Originating Department

Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

4. Notification Number

2009/0590/UK - C50C



5. Title

The Detergents Regulations 2010

6. Products Concerned

Detergents and Surfactants

7. Notification Under Another Act

Regulation (EC) No 648/2004 on Detergents

8. Main Content

The draft regulations are an update to Detergents Regulations 2005. The update concerns the pricing structure for fees for handling applications for derogation and the imposition of a ban on phosphates in domestic laundry cleaning products (DLCPs). The ban would limit the inorganic phosphate content of DLCPs by making it an offence to sell detergents if:

“The weight of inorganic phosphate in a detergent comprises greater than 0.4% inorganic phosphate (expressed as phosphorus) as a percentage of the controlled product”.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The ban in phosphate is being proposed to reduce pollution of the aquatic environment with phosphate. Phosphate is commonly the limiting nutrient in freshwater so its low natural concentration restricts the growth rate of plants and algae in freshwater. Phosphate pollution allows plants to grow in unnatural abundance - choking water courses and damaging ecology. This is called eutrophication. Eutrophication can also cause aesthetic problems due to formation of algal mats and make water unusable for a variety of purposes. The proposals would reduce phosphate pollution from DLCPs at source. This is one of several measures to reduce phosphate pollution which affects many rivers in the UK. This update to the detergent regulations 2005 also includes a change to fees for handling applications for derogation.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

- a) 1. Detergents Regulations Consultation Document (October 2009).
2. EU report 2007 on P in detergents.
3. HERA report on zeolite A, P and X.
4. HERA report on polycarboxylates.
5. E3440 summary on the risk assessment for polycarboxylates from the Environment Agency

f) The EU report on P in Detergents (2007) summarises the information on the impact of phosphate on the environment, these effects are also discussed in the attached Impact Assessment (Sept 2009). The common substitutes for phosphate – zeolites and polycarboxylates are expected to be the subject of further EU scrutiny in the near future. Two HERA reports have been attached – these reports cover risk assessments on zeolites and polycarboxylates. I have also attached a summary on the risk assessment for polycarboxylates from the Environment Agency.

To summarise, the substitutes zeolite and polycarboxylate are considered to be low or zero risk to human health and the environment and are already used widely in the EU as substitutes for phosphate in domestic laundry



cleaning products.

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

15. Impact assessment

The impact assessment is attached.

16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT Aspect

No

The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

SPS Aspect

No

The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

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