



12 July 2013

(13-3691)

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Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

1.	Notifying Member: <u>EUROPEAN UNION</u> If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):
2.	Agency responsible: European Commission Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above: European Commission EU-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: +(32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: eu-tbt@ec.europa.eu Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/
3.	Notified under Article 2.9.2 [X], 2.10.1 [], 5.6.2 [], 5.7.1 [], other:
4.	Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Leather Articles and articles containing leather parts which contain chromium VI above 3 ppm.
5.	Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document: Draft Commission Regulation amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards chromium VI compounds (5 pages, in English).
6.	Description of content: The draft Regulation prohibits the placing on the market of leather articles and articles containing leather parts if the content of chromium VI is equal to or greater than 3 mg/kg of the total dry weight of leather in the leather article or the leather parts. The draft Regulation proposes to provide for derogation from the restriction, for consumers who want to resell second-hand articles.
7.	Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable: Chromium VI compounds are formed in leather through the oxidation of chromium III compounds. Chromium III compounds are added in some tanning processes to cross-link the collagen subunits in order to increase leather's dimensional stability as well as its resistance to mechanical action and heat. Exposure to chromium VI contained in leather articles or leather parts of articles, coming into contact with the skin, poses a risk to human health. When in contact with the skin, chromium VI and its compounds can induce sensitisation and elicit allergic reactions at very low concentrations in already sensitised persons.

8.	Relevant documents: Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH Regulation)				
	http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:396:0001:0849:EN:PDF The compiled opinions of the Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-economic Analysis (SEAC): http://www.echa.europa.eu/web/guest/previous-consultations-on-restriction-proposals/-/substance/413/search/+/term				
9.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 562 766 600">Proposed date of adoption:</td><td data-bbox="847 562 1394 600">First quarter 2014</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="301 600 766 638">Proposed date of entry into force:</td><td data-bbox="847 600 1394 734">20 days from publication in the Official Journal of the EU (about a month after adoption approx.). The proposed date of application is the first quarter of 2015.</td></tr> </table>	Proposed date of adoption:	First quarter 2014	Proposed date of entry into force:	20 days from publication in the Official Journal of the EU (about a month after adoption approx.). The proposed date of application is the first quarter of 2015.
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10.	Final date for comments: 60 days from date of notification				
11.	Text available from: National enquiry point [X], or address, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail and web-site addresses, if available of the other body: European Commission EU-TBT Enquiry Point Fax: + (32) 2 299 80 43 E-mail: eu-tbt@ec.europa.eu The text is available on the EU-TBT Website: http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/tbt/ http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2013/tbt/EEC/13_2716_00_e.pdf http://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2013/tbt/EEC/13_2716_01_e.pdf				