

EU Adopts the Restriction of Chromium VI in Leather Products

Recently EU adopted the regulation (EU) No 304/2014 regarding the restriction of Chromium VI compounds in leather articles or leather parts of articles in order to prevent skin allergy caused by those toxic substances.

Chromium VI compounds can be formed in leather through the oxidation of chromium III compounds, which are added in some tanning processes to crosslink the collagen subunits in order to increase leather's dimensional stability, as well as its resistance to mechanical action and heat.

This restriction will be effective as of May 1, 2015.

Below will be added to column 2 of entry 47 in the restriction list:

Column 1 Designation of the substance, of the group of substances of the mixture	Column 2 Conditions of restriction
47. Chromium VI compounds	<p>'5. Leather articles coming into contact with the skin shall not be placed on the market where they contain chromium VI in concentrations equal to or greater than 3 mg/kg (0,0003 % by weight) of the total dry weight of the leather.</p> <p>6. Articles containing leather parts coming into contact with the skin shall not be placed on the market where any of those leather parts contains chromium VI in concentrations equal to or greater than 3 mg/kg (0,0003 % by weight) of the total dry weight of that leather part.</p> <p>7. Paragraphs 5 and 6 shall not apply to the placing on the market of second-hand articles which were in end-use in the Union before 1 May 2015.'</p>

Link

Regulation (EU) No 304/2014

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0304&from=EN>