

EU Adopts the Restriction on NPEs in Textile Articles under REACH

European Commission recently adopted the regulation (EU) 2016/26 amending Annex XVII to REACH regarding Nonylphenol Ethoxylates(NPE).

NPEs are persistent and highly toxic to aquatic organisms. In order to limit such risk, European Commission will prohibit the placing on the market of textile articles that can be washed in water, if they contained NPEs in concentrations equal to or higher than 100 mg/kg.

This ban will be effective on February 3, 2021.

Below will be added to Annex XVII of regulation (EC) No 1907/2006.

46a. Nonylphenol ethoxylates (NPE) (C ₂ H ₄ O) _n C ₁₅ H ₂₄ O	<ol style="list-style-type: none">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.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.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.
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