

Bisphenol A

How to tackle a complex problem under REACH

Background

Currently, 22808 substances are registered under the EU chemical regulation REACH (EC 1907/2006). While companies are responsible for the safe use of these substances, it is up to the European Chemical Agency ECHA and Member States to suggest further risk management measures if needed. By providing such measures REACH helps to reduce the emission of critical substances to the environment and supports the EU COM zero pollution ambition as part of the European Green Deal.

Substances of very high concern (SVHC) with regard to the environment e.g. Endocrine Disruptors are such critical substances that may require further regulatory measures. Nevertheless, difficulties remain in deriving the right measure either because data or studies are missing or because alternatives need to be scrutinized. Additional work is needed to improve the system.

Bisphenol A is a prominent example on how to tackle such a complex problem.

Focus: substances of very high concern (SVHC) for the environment

Endocrine Disruptors may be substances of very high concern for the environment under REACH. Currently 12 substances have been identified as SVHC under REACH due to their endocrine disruption properties for the environment. UBA has proposed eight of them. Further work is needed to improve our knowledge on such substances.

Our [study](#) on the quality of data in registration dossiers showed that many data on hazards are missing or inappropriate (REACH Compliance I – III)



Our EU [life project AskREACH](#) develops an app which helps consumers to identify SVHC in articles



SVHC identification of BPA

BPA was [identified as SVHC](#) due to its endocrine disrupting properties for the environment in 2017.

Emission pathways for BPA

In order to decide on the most appropriate regulatory measures, a [study](#) on potential emission pathways of BPA to the environment was conducted.

Bisphenol (A) alternatives

A [study](#) on the endocrine potential of possible alternatives was conducted in order to achieve knowledge on possible substitutes.

Analysis of possible alternatives

Regulated chemicals are often substituted by very similar substances which may have similar risks to the environment. In order to **avoid such regrettable substitution** UBA focusses on the assessment and regulation of groups of chemicals.

Analysis of further regulatory activities

Information on chemical uses and their emission to the environment is needed to decide on the most appropriate risk management options. UBA together with other EU Member States develops guidance on how to get such information efficiently.

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