Newsletter

Global Chemical, Environmental, Social, and Governance Regulations, Policies, and Standards

IAEG

Vol.6, Issue 6

NEWSLETTER

Global Chemical, Environmental, Social, and Governance Regulations, Policies, and Standards
Issue 6 – 2026

WHO IS IAEG?

The International Aerospace Environmental Group (IAEG) is a non-profit organization of global aerospace companies created to collaborate on and share innovative environmental solutions for the industry. The group works to promote the development of voluntary consensus standards and provide accessible solutions for key environmental issues.

Members of IAEG recognize that there are currently a wide variety of different laws and regulations impacting health and the environment worldwide. The complexity and variability of requirements and guidance have led to an increased burden for the industry and its supply chain.

IAEG work groups address such issues as chemical material declarations and reporting requirements, the development of alternative technologies, and greenhouse gas reporting and management. They create a forum for diverse and often competitive businesses to come together and share information on global environmental requirements. In addition, IAEG provides opportunities for wider education on environmental issues and the supply chain via its meetings agendas and bespoke seminars.

IAEG WORK GROUP 9 NEWSLETTER

The Aerospace and Defense (AD) industry is committed to developing an approach to help the AD industry evaluate emerging global chemical, environmental, social, and governance regulations and their impact on compliance and potential operational risk for companies and their supply chain. The objectives are to:

- Maintain a list of global regulations, policies and standards considered and to be considered, including executive summaries of those regulations.
- Develop a method to evaluate designated emerging regulations potential impact on compliance and/or operational risk, business continuity, and/or impact on supply chain.
- Develop summaries of the associated timeline for regulations (e.g., deadlines) and highlight the specific impacts.
- Develop communication materials and conduct informational webinars, as appropriate, for member companies and/or AD supply chain companies, as appropriate.

This Newsletter summarizes chemical, environmental, social, and governance regulations relevant to the AD industry. Contact Lisa Brown at myrna.l.brown@lmco.com for any questions on this Newsletter. For general assistance on IAEG matters, contact Damien Labadie at damien.labadie@aelyans.com.

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GLOBAL

Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 (published)

The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) released Corporate Net-Zero Standard Version 2.0 on 11 June 2026 representing a major update to its flagship voluntary framework for corporate net-zero target-setting and implementation. The updated standard shifts from target-setting toward implementation, strengthening expectations around governance, transition planning, and continuous progress tracking. It is designed to make science-based climate action more practical and actionable across diverse company contexts.

The revised framework introduces differentiated requirements based on company size and geography, requires stronger integration of targets into corporate governance, and introduces a best-efforts accountability model that emphasizes transparency over rigid compliance. It also establishes an implementation hierarchy prioritizing direct emissions reductions across operations and value chains before use of market instruments.

Listing of decabromodiphenylethane, its related substance, 1,1'-ethane-1,2-diylbisbenzene, brominated, and bis(2-ethylhexyl) tetrabromophthalate in Annexes A, B, and/or C to the Stockholm Convention (proposed)

The Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) has published proposals to evaluate decabromodiphenyl ethane (DBDPE; CAS No. 84852-53-9) and its related substance, 1,1'-ethane-1,2-diylbisbenzene, brominated (CAS No. 1092834-40-6) and bis(2-ethylhexyl) tetrabromophthalate (TBPH; CAS No. 26040-51-7), for possible listing under Annexes A, B, and/or C of the Convention. The proposals were submitted by Norway (DBDPE and its related substance) and the European Union (TBPH) and will be considered by the POP Review Committee (POPRC) at its twenty-second meeting in September 2026. If accepted, the substances would enter the Convention's formal review process for potential global control measures.

DBDPE and its related substance, 1,1'-ethane-1,2-diylbisbenzene, brominated and TBPH are brominated flame retardants used in a variety of industrial and consumer applications. DBDPE is widely used in electrical and electronic equipment, automotive components, construction materials, and textiles, and has increasingly been used as a replacement for decabromodiphenyl ether (a.k.a. decaBDE; CAS No. 1163-19-5), which was listed under the Stockholm Convention in 2017. TBPH is used as a flame retardant and plasticizer in flexible PVC, wire and cable insulation, polyurethane foams, and upholstery applications, and has been used as a replacement for polybrominated diphenyl ethers (i.e., PBDEs). The proposals seek consideration of both substances for inclusion in Annexes A, B and/or C of the Convention due to concerns relating to persistence, bioaccumulation, environmental transport, and potential adverse effects on human health and the environment.

The POPRC will assess whether the nominations satisfy the screening criteria set out in Annex D of the Stockholm Convention. If the POPRC concludes that the criteria are met, it will initiate the development of draft risk profiles to determine whether the substances are likely, as a result of long-range environmental transport, to lead to significant adverse human health and/or environmental effects such that global action is warranted. Subsequent stages may include

preparation of risk management evaluations and recommendations regarding listing under Annex A (elimination), Annex B (restriction), and/or Annex C (unintentional releases).

The publication of the DBDPE and TBPH nominations represents the first step towards potential global restrictions under the Stockholm Convention. The POPRC will consider both proposals during its meeting in Rome from 21-25 September 2026. Should the substances advance through the Convention's review process, final decisions on listing would be considered by a future Conference of the Parties.

ASIA

China

New national standard to establish concentration limits for polybrominated biphenyls and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (published)

On 30 April 2026, the Standardization Administration of China published a new national standard, GB/T 47551-2026, to establish concentration limits for polybrominated biphenyls (PBBs) and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) in plastics. The standard takes effect on 1 November 2026.

Previously, China restricted these legacy flame retardants primarily in electrical and electronic products under its Restrictions of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) regime. This new standard extends these restrictions to plastics as a broader material category, including recycled plastics. The update aligns China's chemical management approach with the European Union's RoHS Directive and persistent organic pollutants frameworks.

Companies handling plastic materials should ensure their inputs meet new chemical thresholds. The national standard caps the permitted levels of these substances as follows:

- PBBs: Maximum 1,000 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) applicable to both individual compounds and total PBB content
- PBDEs: Maximum 10 mg/kg for any single compound, and a total limit of 500 mg/kg

This change shifts compliance obligations to the raw material level, applying to plastics as a broader material category, including recycled plastics. Even though this is a recommended national standard, it becomes mandatory if referenced by Chinese law. This will directly affect manufacturers and importers of these materials.

More information can be found here in Chinese.

Updates to Catalogue for the Administration of Export of Precursor Chemicals to Specific Countries (effective)

On 22 May 2026, China updated its Catalogue (can also be found here in Chinese) for the Administration of Export of Precursor Chemicals to Specific Countries (Regions), introducing additional precursor chemicals subject to export licensing

controls. The amendment forms part of China's framework for managing exports of chemicals that may be used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and controlled substances. The update took effect immediately upon publication.

The catalogue is divided into two parts according to destination countries and regions:

- Part I: precursor chemicals subject to export licensing requirements when exported to the United States, Canada, and Mexico.
- Part II: precursor chemicals subject to export licensing requirements when exported to Myanmar, Laos, and Afghanistan

Exporters shipping listed substances to the designated countries must obtain an export license in accordance with China's Interim Regulations on the Administration of Export of Precursor Chemicals to Specific Countries (Regions). Exports of the substances listed to other destinations are not subject to these licensing requirements.

The amendment adds three substances to Part I of the catalogue covering exports to the United States, Canada, and Mexico: 1-tert-butoxycarbonyl-4-oxo-3-piperidinecarboxylate (methyl ester), 1-tert-Butoxycarbonyl-4-oxo-3-piperidinecarboxylate (ethyl ester), 4-Hydroxypiperidine, including its carbamate derivatives, amide derivatives, sulfonyl derivatives and derivatives formed through combinations of these modifications. The updated Part I catalogue now covers a range of piperidone, piperidine and related precursor substances, including derivatives and salts. The catalogue also specifies that salts of the listed substances are subject to the same controls.

Part II continues to apply licensing requirements for exports to Myanmar, Laos and Afghanistan and includes a range of controlled chemicals such as ammonium chloride, ethanol, sodium hydroxide, activated carbon, iodine, red phosphorus, hydroiodic acid, dichloromethane, cyclohexane, xylene, sodium borohydride and thionyl chloride. Exporters must obtain the required license before exporting listed chemicals to the countries covered by the respective catalogue sections.

The amendment entered into force on 22 May 2026 and applies immediately to exports destined for the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Licensing requirements for exports to Myanmar, Laos, and Afghanistan remain in place under Part II of the catalogue.

No penalties are associated with this update. More information can be found in Chinese in this announcement.

Compliance Standard Management Catalogue for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Products (2026 Edition) and the Application Exemption List for the Restricted Substances in the Compliance Management Catalogue (2026 Edition) (effective)

On 28 May 2026, China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology published Announcement No. 11 of 2026, announcing the Compliance Management Catalogue for the Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Products (2026 Edition; RoHS in EEP) and the Application Exemption List for Restricted Substances in the Compliance Management Catalogue (2026 Edition). The announcement was issued together with the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Administration of Customs, the State Administration for Market Regulation, and the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration.

The announcement was issued to implement the Ecological Environment Code and the Administrative Measures for the RoHS in EEP. The 2026 Compliance Management Catalogue and the 2026 Application Exemption List came into force on the date of publication. The 2018 Compliance Management Catalogue for the RoHS in EEP (First Batch) and its Application Exemption List were repealed from the same date.

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The Compliance Management Catalogue identifies electrical and electronic products subject to China's hazardous substance restriction requirements and conformity assessment system. It lists thirty-three product categories and provides product scope, definitions, application notes, and implementation dates. Some listed products apply from the date of publication, while other products or product subcategories apply from 1 August 2027.

Products included in the Compliance Management Catalogue (can be found here in Chinese) must comply with the relevant standards for restricted hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products by the applicable implementation date. The restricted substances are lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls, polybrominated diphenyl ethers, dibutyl phthalate, diisobutyl phthalate, benzyl butyl phthalate and bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate. Listed products are also brought within the conformity assessment system for restricted hazardous substances in electrical and electronic products.

The Application Exemption List (available in Chinese) sets out permitted applications and limit requirements for certain uses of restricted substances. The exemptions include mercury in specified lamps, lead in selected glass, alloys, solders, ceramics and electronic components, cadmium in specified electrical contacts, display and lighting applications, hexavalent chromium in specified cooling systems, and bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, butyl benzyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, and diisobutyl phthalate in recovered parts used for repair or refurbishment of electronic medical devices under controlled conditions.

Penalties are not mentioned in the update. The announcement can be found here in Chinese.

Revision of the Measures for the Registration of New Chemical Substances for Environmental Management (consultation)

The Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) issued a draft revision (can also be found here in Chinese) of the Measures for the Registration of Environmental Management of New Chemical Substances to replace Order No. 12. Formulated under the Ecological Environment Code of the People's Republic of China, the regulation establishes a national registration system to evaluate and control pollution risks before new chemicals enter the market. Lawmakers aim to protect public health and the environment by applying categorized management, focusing on persistent, bioaccumulative, or highly hazardous substances.

The consultation document contains three attachments: i) a list of units soliciting opinions, ii) the revised draft regulation, and iii) explanatory notes. The draft regulation contains five chapters: General Provisions, Registration Procedures and Requirements, Tracking Management, Legal Liability, and Supplementary Provisions.

Enterprises must obtain an Environmental Management Registration Certificate before producing or importing new chemical substances. The regulation defines new chemical substances as those not listed in the Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances in China.

Registration Types and Volume Thresholds
Simplified Registration applies to an annual production or import volume under one ton; Routine Registration applies to an annual production or import volume of one ton or more.

Testing and Application Requirements
Routine registration requires physicochemical, health toxicology, and ecotoxicology test data. Ecotoxicology reports must include data using test organisms from the People's Republic of China, and organizations must comply with Good

Laboratory Practices. Applications with a cumulative national volume under ten tons are exempt from submitting a pollution risk assessment report and socioeconomic benefit analysis.

Industry Obligations
Manufacturers and importers must implement pollution risk control measures. They must maintain activity records and upload annual reports to the national information system by 31 March each year. Downstream users must request compliance information from their suppliers.

Exemptions
The regulation exempts radioactive chemicals, unmodified export products, and non-manufacturing activities such as trade, warehousing, and transportation. Certain low-concern polymers (containing ≤2% monomers) are exempt from providing socioeconomic or hazard justification materials.

The deadline for public comments was 12 July 2026. The regulation enters into force on 15 August 2026. Once these new measures come into effect, they will officially repeal and replace Order No. 12. Registration certificates obtained under the old rules will continue to be valid, but any necessary changes to those certificates will be handled under the new provisions.

Penalties for non-compliance are enforced under the "Ecological Environment Code of the People's Republic of China" and include:

- fines between 10,000 and 100,000 yuan for producing, importing, or using uncertified new chemicals, or using deceptive application tactics
- joint disciplinary actions for corporate dishonesty
- a three-year ban on new applications for entities obtaining registration via fraud
- fines between 10,000 and 100,000 yuan for testing agencies and their responsible personnel who issue false reports, alongside a three-year ban on accepting their test reports

More information can be found in Chinese in this announcement from MEE.

Japan

Ministerial Ordinance Regarding long chain perfluoroalkanoic acid related substances (consultation)

Following international commitments made at the 12th Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in early 2025, Japan is enacting a strict domestic ban on long-chain perfluoroalkanoic acid (PFCA) related substances. The Cabinet Order designating these chemical structures as Class I Specified Chemical Substances was already promulgated on 22 May 2026 (Cabinet Order No. 171 of 2026). A consultation was opened on 1 June 2026 concerning the subsequent Ministerial Ordinance (can be found here in Japanese) required to establish the definitive list of concrete chemical structures, precursors, and related substances that fall under the C9-C21 carbon chain criteria (specifically containing perfluoroalkyl groups with 8 to 20 carbon atoms directly bonded to atoms other than fluorine, chlorine, or bromine).

Under the Chemical Substances Control Law (CSCL), once a chemical is formally listed as a Class I Specified Substance, its manufacture, import, and commercial use are prohibited in principle, and the import of finished products containing them is banned. Comments for the Draft Ministerial Ordinance were due on 20 June 2026. An overview of the Ministerial Ordinance can be found here in English and in Japanese. More information can be found here in Japanese.

Russia

Resolution to approve the Technical Regulation of Chemical Products (published)

On 3 June 2026, Russia adopted Resolution No. 688 (can also be found here in Russian) approving the Technical Regulation on the Safety of Chemical Products. The Resolution was officially published on 4 June 2026. The Technical Regulation enters into force on 1 September 2027 and establishes requirements for chemical products, including safety data sheets, restrictions on the circulation of certain chemicals of concern, conformity assessment, product identification, terminology, packaging, and labeling. It was developed considering the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals and establishes criteria for hazards arising from physicochemical properties, adverse effects on human health, and adverse effects on the environment.

The Technical Regulation contains eleven annexes supporting its technical requirements. Annex 1 identifies chemical products that fall within its scope, including the relevant Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) customs commodity codes, while Annex 2 identifies excluded product categories. Notable exclusions relevant to the aerospace and defense industry include products intended for scientific research or laboratory-scale analytical work, goods in customs transit, chemical products already covered by applicable EAEU technical regulations, and products supplied under a state defense order. The remaining annexes set out the safety data sheet format, criteria for identifying chemicals of concern, rules for the register of chemical substances and mixtures, documents that may demonstrate prior circulation of a chemical substance in Russia, general approaches to testing chemical products, and information requirements for state registration, notification of new chemical substances and chemical safety reports. Chemical products already subject to state registration under Decision No. 299 of the Customs Union Commission are subject only to warning labeling and safety data sheet requirements.

Before release into circulation in Russia, chemical products must undergo conformity assessment. State registration is the applicable form of conformity assessment and is carried out by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation based on an application submitted by a manufacturer, authorized representative of a foreign manufacturer, or importer acting as the applicant. State registration may be indefinite or valid for five years, depending on the criteria set out in the Technical Regulation.

Applicants must submit a state registration dossier containing, among other information, an application, the applicable normative document, a safety data sheet, information on the full chemical composition of the product, and information on annual production or import volumes. Documents and information submitted in a foreign language must be accompanied by a Russian translation certified by the applicant. During the registration period, applicants must also submit annual information on actual and planned production or import volumes.

State registration requirements are phased based on the type of chemical product and the annual quantity placed on the market by a single applicant:

- Chemical substances
  - from 1,000 tonnes per year: 1 September 2028
  - from 100 to 1,000 tonnes per year: 1 September 2029
  - from 1 to 100 tonnes per year: 1 September 2030
  - below 1 tonne per year: 1 September 2031
- Mixtures
  - above 1,000 tonnes per year: 1 September 2032
  - 1,000 tonnes per year or less: 1 March 2033

A register of chemical substances and mixtures will be maintained. Where a chemical substance contained in a chemical product is absent from the register, the chemical product may be registered only after the substance has been included in the register following notification. The Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human

Wellbeing conducts notification and requires an application, a chemical safety report and supporting information on the substance, including available test data or other permitted information sources. A chemical substance may be included in the register without notification where the applicant provides the documents and information specified in Annex 6 demonstrating that the substance was already in circulation in Russia, including as part of a mixture, before the Technical Regulation enters into force.

Manufacturers, authorized representatives of foreign manufacturers and importers are required to prepare a safety data sheet before releasing chemical products into circulation. The safety data sheet must accompany the chemical product and be made available free of charge upon request. It has no limited validity period but must be updated where relevant changes occur, including changes affecting the hazard classification of the chemical product or the availability of new information that improves the reliability or completeness of the data.

Chemical products must meet marking and warning labeling requirements. Product marking must include prescribed product and supplier information, while warning labeling must include the applicable hazard communication elements. The warning labeling and safety data sheet requirements apply from 1 September 2028. Marking requirements for chemical products subject to state registration apply from the relevant date on which the corresponding state registration requirements take effect.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade must develop and submit draft standardization documents containing rules and methods for testing, measurement, and sampling by 1 February 2027. Certain classification requirements apply when the relevant standardization documents are included in the applicable list. For the first three years after entry into force, studies may be undertaken in accredited testing laboratories without complying with Point 105 of the Technical Regulation. Point 4 of the Resolution states that the Technical Regulation is valid for six years from its entry into force.

State registration may be refused where required documents or information are not submitted or identified deficiencies are not corrected. A new chemical substance may be refused inclusion in the register where notification information is not completed or corrected within the prescribed period. An indefinite state registration may cease to have effect where re-registration is required, and the applicant does not apply within ninety working days. The Regulation does not specify monetary fines or criminal penalties.

More information can be found here in Russian.

South Korea

Amendment to the regulation on the prescribed quantity of hazardous chemicals (effective)

On 6 May 2026, South Korea's National Institute of Chemical Safety published Notice No. 2026-4 (available in Korean), which partially amends the regulation on prescribed quantities of hazardous chemicals. The regulation is issued under provisions of the Enforcement Rule of the Chemical Substances Control Act (CSCA) and sets upper, lower, and lowest prescribed quantities for human acute hazardous substances, human chronic hazardous substances, ecological hazardous substances, and accident preparedness substances.

The notice defines prescribed quantity as a quantity criterion used to distinguish implementation targets under the CSCA, accounting for the hazards and physical or chemical properties of hazardous chemicals. It also defines maximum holding amount as the total amount of a hazardous chemical that may remain at its maximum at any time across all manufacturing, use, storage, and custody facilities at a workplace.

The notice contains the following annexes:

- Annex 1 (can also be found here in Korean): Regulated Quantities by Risk Group
- Annex 2 (can also be found here in Korean): Regulated Quantities by Substance with Human Acute Hazard, Human Chronic Hazard and Ecological Hazard – it now contains 1,557 entries and sets concentration thresholds from which quantity limits apply, as well as lowest, lower, and upper quantity thresholds that help determine implementation targets under the CSCA
- Annex 3 (can also be found here in Korean): Regulated Quantities by Accident Preparedness Substance
- Annex 4 (can also be found here in Korean): Methods for Calculating Maximum Holding Amount for hazardous chemicals handled in manufacturing, use, storage, and custody facilities, including calculation principles for mixtures, gaseous substances, and low diffusion substances

The notice is subject to validity review every three years from 1 January 2026, with each review to be completed by 31 December of the relevant third year. Penalties are not mentioned in the update.

More information can be found here in Korean.

Amendment to the Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Products and Automobiles to support a resource circulation system for emerging waste streams (published)

South Korea has amended the Act on Resource Circulation of Electrical and Electronic Equipment and Vehicles (the Act) to support the development of a resource circulation system for emerging waste streams generated by the transition to a carbon-neutral society and increased deployment of renewable energy technologies. The amendment also revises obligations relating to the recovery of packaging materials and waste products associated with the sale of electrical and electronic equipment. The amendment modifies provisions governing collection and recycling activities and introduces new measures relating to future waste resources. It authorizes both the Minister of Climate, Energy, and Environment (MCEE) and local government heads to establish and operate future waste resource base collection centers.

The amendment limits the obligation of producers and sellers to collect packaging materials and waste products free of charge to situations involving the installation of designated large electrical and electronic products. When installing such products, producers and sellers must collect i) packaging materials from the newly supplied product and ii) waste products of the same type being replaced, including equivalent products manufactured by other companies.

The amendment expands the scope of future waste resources that may be managed through future waste resource base collection centers. These resources include:

- waste drive batteries and fuel cells from electric vehicles, hybrid vehicles and hydrogen-powered vehicles
- waste drive batteries from construction machinery and agricultural machinery
- related waste designated by the MCEE
- core components from renewable energy power generation facilities, including solar panels and other prescribed equipment

A new provision requires the establishment and implementation of policies for training specialized personnel involved in future waste resource recycling. The amendment also authorizes the government to provide financial support for projects included in these policies. The amendment aims to improve recycling infrastructure and support the management of emerging waste streams associated with electrification and renewable energy technologies.

Penalties are unchanged by this amendment and remain those provided under the Act. The amendment was promulgated on 9 June 2026 and will enter into force on 10 December 2026. More information can be found here in Korean.

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Amendments to regulations to ban methoxychlor, Dechlorane Plus, and UV-328 (in force)

The Ministry of Climate, Energy, and Environment (MCEE) has amended its persistent organic pollutant frameworks to explicitly ban the manufacture, import, export, and use of methoxychlor (CAS No. 72-43-5), Dechlorane Plus (CAS No. 13560-89-9), and UV-328 (CAS No. 25973-55-1), while implementing time-limited technical exemptions for specific automotive, aerospace, and medical industrial applications. This notification amends the regulations that define the specific types of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and outlines the strict exemptions under which the manufacturing, import/export, and use of these restricted substances are permitted in South Korea.

The primary update aligns domestic law with international agreements, specifically the Stockholm Convention on POPs. While the regulation generally enters into force on April 29, 2026, it introduces a specific timeline for three added substances. Annex I adds methoxychlor, Dechlorane Plus, and UV-328 to the list of POPs, while Annex II (available here in Korean) adds activity, specific exemptions, and the deadline for these exemptions is permitted for Dechlorane Plus and UV-328. It also includes amendments to exemptions and exemption deadlines for formerly listed substances. The exemptions and deadlines in Annex II are stated as follows:

- perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS; CAS No. 1763-23-1) and related substances: Listed under Annex B, allowing continued production and use only for fire suppression foam already installed in existing systems, with the exemption ending on 2 June 2030
- decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209; CAS No. 1163-19-5): Listed under Annex A with restricted use exemptions for legacy vehicle parts, limited household heating appliances, and certain pre-approved aircraft parts, with exemptions that have ended on 20 February 2025
- perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA; CAS No. 335-67-1) and related substances: Listed under Annex A, permitting restricted production and use in applications such as semiconductors, medical devices, protective textiles, and automotive parts, with most exemptions ending on 2 June 2026 and fire-fighting foam use until 2 June 2030
- Dechlorane Plus was added to Annex A of the POPs regulation, prohibiting its production while allowing continued use under specific exemptions for aerospace, space and defense applications, medical imaging and radiation therapy equipment, and replacement parts and repairs for finished products until 27 July 2031
- UV-328 was added to Annex A of the POPs regulation, prohibiting its production while allowing specific exempted uses in certain industrial coatings, automotive parts, blood collection tube separators, TAC (triacetate cellulose) polarizing films, photographic paper, and replacement parts for finished products until 27 July 2031

According to the Annex, the effectiveness of these newly listed substances will only take effect on the day that the Annex A additions, which were adopted at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention, officially enter into force (already effective). Penalties are not stated in this update, but non-compliance will be subject to penalties under the Korean Regulations on Types of Persistent Organic Pollutants and Specific Exemptions.

More information can be found in Korean in this notice in from MCEE.

Updates to the hazard assessment result for chemical substances (published)

The Chemical Substances Safety Agency published Notification No. 2026-9 (available in Korean) to update hazard assessment results (available in Korean) for registered chemicals. The update establishes results for seventy-nine new substances and amends sixty-six existing entries. Authorities enacted this amendment under Articles 18 and 21 of the Chemical Substances Registration and Evaluation Act, which requires authorities to assess hazards, notify registrants, and disclose chemical identities and hazards to the public.

The notification contains two main annexes and detailed assessment sheets:

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- Annex No. 1 (New Chemical Substances) establishes seventy-nine newly assessed substances and details thirty-four amendments based on newly secured hazard information
- Annex No. 2 (Existing Chemical Substances) outlines thirty-two amendments comprising of thirteen updates from new hazard data, one error correction and eighteen unique number updates for substances designated as hazardous to humans

The notification includes detailed assessment sheets for each chemical. These sheets provide the CAS number; Globally Harmonized System classification, physical, and chemical properties; and human health and environmental hazards. Subsequent registrations, change registrations, and data submission orders provided the new hazard data. Manufacturers, importers, retailers, and distributors must review the updated classifications for the listed chemicals, comply with the Chemical Substances Control Act, and obtain a hazardous chemical business permit if applicable.

This notification was published and entered into force on 21 May 2026. There are no penalties specified in this update. More information can be found here in Korean.

Amendment to the Enforcement Rules of the Asbestos Safety Management Act and to the Enforcement Decree of the Asbestos Safety Management Act (consultation)

On 26 May 2026, The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment published a draft amendment (can be found here in Korean) to the Enforcement Rules of the Asbestos Safety Management Act for public consultation. The proposal follows amendments to the Asbestos Safety Management Act adopted on 19 February 2026 and is intended to implement the revised legislation before it enters into force on 20 February 2027. The draft seeks to strengthen oversight of asbestos dismantling and removal activities, improve reporting and verification procedures, and refine the qualification and evaluation framework for asbestos removal work supervisors.

The draft amendment revises several provisions governing the designation, registration and evaluation of asbestos removal work supervisors, updates provisions affected by the recent legislative amendments, and introduces new reporting requirements for asbestos dismantling and removal projects. It also establishes a new supervision completion reporting form and updates administrative procedures relating to the registration and management of asbestos removal work supervisors.

The draft amendment of the Enforcement Rules introduces changes to several specific provisions.

- Article 41-2(1)(7) and Form No. 20-2 would be amended to require additional supporting documentation, including a special health examination certificate, when applying for designation as an asbestos dismantling and removal work supervisor
- Article 41-4(3) would be revised to clarify the deadline for submitting applications relating to changes in the registration details of asbestos dismantling and removal work supervisors
- Articles 41-5 and 43(3) would be amended to align existing provisions with revisions made to the Asbestos Safety Management Act (revisions can be found here in Korean), including provisions relating to the duties and supervision of asbestos dismantling and removal work
- Article 41-5(3) and new Form No. 26 would establish a formal supervision completion reporting system for asbestos dismantling and removal projects

Under this framework, asbestos removal work supervisors would be required to prepare and submit supervision completion reports supported by documentation demonstrating that removal activities were conducted appropriately and that asbestos waste was managed in accordance with regulatory requirements. The proposal would also revise the evaluation criteria and evaluation methods applicable to asbestos dismantling and removal work supervisors through

amendments to Attachment 5-2. The revised framework would update the criteria used to assess supervisory performance and compliance.

In parallel, the proposed amendment to the Enforcement Decree establishes and strengthens penalties and administrative fines to ensure compliance. It introduces specific administrative dispositions, including the revocation of a supervisor's registration for severe or repeated violations, such as obtaining registration through fraudulent means, lending a registration certificate, falsely preparing a supervision completion report, or performing supervision poorly due to intent or gross negligence. Lesser violations may result in business suspensions of up to three or six months or corrective orders. Furthermore, the Decree introduces new escalating administrative fines of up to five million won for both clients and supervisors. Clients can be fined for failing to comply with official requests to replace a non-compliant supervisor or for inflicting disadvantages on a supervisor who requests work corrections or stoppages. Supervisors can be fined for failing to request the correction or cessation of violations committed by dismantling workers, or for refusing to perform their duties without justifiable grounds.

Comments were due on 6 July 2026. If adopted, the amendments are expected to enter into force on 20 February 2027 alongside the revised Act. More information can be found in Korean in Notice 2026-520 and Notice 2026-521.

Amendments to the Regulations on Specific Handling Standards by Each Hazardous Chemical (consultation)

On 22 May 2026, the National Institute of Chemical Safety announced a proposed partial amendment to the Regulation on Specific Handling Standards by Hazardous Chemical. The regulation provides specific handling standards and recommendations for hazardous chemicals under Annex 1 of the Enforcement Rule of the Chemical Substances Control Act. The proposed amendment would establish specific handling standards for seventy-four newly designated skin corrosive hazardous substances in categories 1B and 1C. It would also add a pre-handling risk confirmation item to the handling standards for carbon monoxide.

Comments on the proposal were due on 11 June 2026. More information can be found here in Korean.

Amendment to regulations to optimize the cross-border trade of high-value electronic waste assets (draft)

The South Korean Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE) has issued a notification (can also be found here in Korean) regarding a draft amendment to optimize the cross-border trade of high-value electronic waste assets. The aim is to ensure trade of waste resources used to extract key minerals is maintained while complying with Basel Convention restrictions on waste import and export.

The draft adds “waste electrical and electronic components and scrap (limited to cases of import or export to OECD[1] member countries)” to the list of controlled import and export waste as new entry 27. It is defined as “waste falling under codes GC010 (electrical assemblies consisting of metals or alloys) and GC020 (electronic scrap—e.g., printed circuit boards, electronic components, wires, etc., and electronic components suitable for the recovery of non-ferrous and precious metals) as defined in the ‘OECD Council Decision on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes Destined for Recovery Operations,’ when imported for recycling purposes or exported to OECD member countries.” This means that if

[1] *OECD = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development*

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the draft is adopted, the import and export of this type of waste will only be allowed for recycling purposes and to/from OECD member countries.

More information can be found in Korean in this Administrative Notice from MCEE.

Amendments to K-REACH and the Regulations on Classification and Labeling of Chemical Substances (draft)

The National Institute of Chemical Safety (NICS) has launched consultations on two related amendments under K-REACH. The proposals would add thirty-eight substances to South Korea's lists of human acute hazardous substances, human chronic hazardous substances, and ecological hazardous substances, following hazard evaluations of registered chemicals. The amendments would also revise information for several previously listed substances, including chemical names, CAS numbers, and hazard designations based on newly available data.

In parallel, NICS proposes corresponding amendments to the Regulations on Classification and Labeling of Chemical Substances. These changes would update hazard classifications, labeling requirements, and related information for the newly designated substances, while also correcting and revising classification details for several existing entries. Transitional measures are proposed to provide companies handling affected substances with additional time to comply with obligations under South Korea's chemicals legislation.

To help businesses adjust, both amendments will introduce a grace period that provides entities handling newly designated hazardous chemicals with sufficient time to implement required warning labels and fulfil their broader safety and reporting obligations under Article 16 of the Chemical Substances Control Act.

Comments were due on 2 July 2026. More information ca be found in Korean in Announcement Number 2026-61 and Announcement Number 2026-62.

Taiwan

Designation of nine substances for Phase 2 of its existing registration program (announced)

The Ministry of Environment (MoE), through the Chemicals Administration (CHA), announced plans to designate nine existing chemical substances for Phase 2 of its existing chemicals registration program under the Toxic and Concerned Chemical Substances Control Act (TCSCCA). The announcement was presented during a stakeholder symposium held on 21 May 2026 and follows an earlier registration program covering 106 substances.

Phase 2 forms part of Taiwan's ongoing framework for identifying and assessing Priority Existing Chemical Substances (PECs) under TCSCCA. Unlike Phase 1, where registrants were required to submit extensive substance information, MoE intends to first collect and evaluate internationally avoidable hazard data before requiring registrants to submit additional information to address identified data gaps. MoE has also indicated that future registration requirements will place greater emphasis on use and exposure information, support joint registration approaches and prioritize non-animal alternative testing methods where appropriate.

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The nine substances prioritized by MOENV for Phase 2 assessment are:

- pitch, coal tar, high temperature (CAS No. 65996-93-2)
- isobutane (CAS No. 75-28-5)
- coal tar (CAS No. 8007-45-2)
- distillates (petroleum), solvent-refined heavy paraffinic (CAS No. 64741-88-4)
- lubricating oils (petroleum), C20-50, hydrotreated neutral oil-based (CAS No. 72623-87-1)
- distillates (petroleum), hydrotreated heavy naphthenic (CAS No. 64742-52-5)
- 4-tert-butylbenzoic acid (CAS No. 98-73-7)
- 2-hydroxy-2-methylpropionitrile / acetone cyanohydrin (CAS No. 75-86-5)
- residues (petroleum), vacuum (CAS No. 64741-56-6)

MoE has indicated that these substances were selected from a preliminary list of twenty-eight candidate chemicals after reviewing hazard, physical-chemical, toxicological, and ecotoxicological information, together with use, exposure, and management considerations. Several of the selected substances have recognized international hazard classifications or are subject to regulatory controls in other jurisdictions, including carcinogenicity, reproductive toxicity, aquatic toxicity, volatile organic compound concerns, and restrictions relating to petroleum-derived substances and coal tar products. MoE has also indicated that designated registrants may subsequently be required to submit detailed information relating to substance manufacture, uses, exposure scenarios, and exposure assessment.

The authority is currently developing the detailed registration requirements and plans to incorporate the relevant provisions into future amendments to the Registration Measures. Companies manufacturing or importing any of the nine substances should monitor future MoE announcements regarding registration obligations and supplementary information requirements. No penalties are associated with this announcement.

More information can be found here in Chinese.

Amendment to the Restrictions on the Import of Mercury-Containing Products to phase out import of specific mercury-containing items (published)

On 22 June 2026, the Ministry of Environment (MoE) published an amendment to the Restrictions on the Import of Mercury-Containing Products to phase out the import of specific mercury-containing items. The amendment (can also be found here in Chinese) updates regulations under Article 21 of the Waste Disposal Law to restrict mercury in the market. It establishes a phased ban on the import of specific mercury-containing products and impacts manufacturers, importers, retailers, and distributors of specialized equipment. Effective 1 July 2026, the ban covers:

- switches and relays
- high-pressure mercury lamps for general lighting
- fluorescent lamps with built-in ballasts (30 watts or less)
- cold cathode and external electrode fluorescent lamps for electronic displays
- mercury vacuum pumps
- tire balancers and wheel balance weights
- photographic film and paper
- space vehicle propellants
- strain gauges in volumetric plethysmography
- electrical, electronic, and non-electronic measuring instruments (e.g., thermometers, barometers, pressure gauges melt pressure converters, transmitters, and sensors)

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Effective 1 January 2027, the ban covers:

- compact fluorescent lamps for general lighting
- straight-tube and non-straight-tube fluorescent lamps using halophosphate phosphors

Effective 01 January 2028, the ban covers straight-tube and non-straight-tube fluorescent lamps using tri-color phosphors.

Importers can only bypass these restrictions with central competent authority approval. They must prove the products meet one of the following exemptions:

- necessary for military or civilian protection
- used for research, education, instrument calibration, or reference standards
- no suitable mercury-free alternatives exist for highly specific uses (e.g., high-precision bridges, electronic displays, or large equipment measuring instruments)

There are no penalties associated with this update. More information can be found here in Chinese.

Thailand

Changes to the qualifications of applicants for import licenses of hazardous substances and the criteria for granting import licenses for hydrofluorocarbons (consultation)

Thailand is proposing changes to the qualifications of applicants for licenses to import hazardous substances and the criteria for considering licenses to import hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The changes would affect importers, exporters, and users of HFCs. Comments on the changes were due on 21 June 2026.

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) have a low ozone-depleting potential, but they have global warming potential. Thailand ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on 3 April 2024, extending national controls to HFCs. To control the amount used within the country, Thailand announced guidelines [B.E. 2566 (2023)] in December 2023 or authorizing the use of HFC. The goal is to limit use to 58,759,216 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent starting in 2024, and further achieve a reduction of 10% in 2029, 30% in 2035, 50% in 2040, and 80% in 2045. In 2024 and 2025, meetings were held, and issues regarding quota transfers and the schedule for submitting import plans were raised.

Changes to B.E. 2566 (2023) are intended to make import approval criteria clearer, more comprehensive, and more suitable, ensuring efficient management and compliance with international obligations. Proposed changes under consideration are:

- digital integration - supporting operations through electronic networks for increased efficiency
- deadline extensions - pushing back the annual August 31st deadline for submitting HFC import plans and import license applicant meetings, giving businesses more time to accurately gather information and avoid data errors
- quota flexibility - allowing management of quotas after allocation (reinstatement of rights, requests for modifications to rights, requests for additional allocations for the current year, transfer of rights) to enhance the sector's competitiveness
- special case allocations - creating temporary, case-by-case quotas for specialized needs (research, testing, equipment maintenance) when substances are not available domestically
- quota enforcement - implementing measures for importers who import less than the specified threshold, such as less than 50% of their allocated quota, and do not return unused rights within the specified period, to ensure the country's consumption is managed efficiently

More information can be found here in Thai.

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Vietnam

Decree 112/2026/ND-CP establishes a regulatory framework governing the international transfer of greenhouse gas emission mitigation outcomes and carbon credit (effective)

Vietnam's Decree 112/2026/ND-CP, issued by the Government of Vietnam, establishes a regulatory framework governing the international transfer of greenhouse gas emission mitigation outcomes and carbon credits in alignment with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The Decree was issued on 1 April 2026 and entered into force on 19 May 2026, defining eligible activities and introducing procedures for project registration, credit issuance, approval, and transfer. It also requires that international transfers be recorded within a national registry and, in certain cases, receive prior approval from the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.

For the aerospace and defense sector, the Decree is not directly prescriptive but is relevant for companies operating in or sourcing from Vietnam where carbon credits are used in decarbonization strategies. Requirements relating to transfer approvals, national registry alignment, and limits on cross-border transactions may influence credit availability and compliance processes. The source does not specify explicit penalties or enforcement sanctions for non-compliance, indicating that enforcement provisions may be addressed through separate legal instruments.

Circular promulgating the list of medium-risk and high-risk products and goods (draft)

On 27 May 2026, MOIT notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of a draft Circular, promulgating a list of medium-risk and high-risk products and goods. The notification describes products and goods with medium-risk levels as subject to traceability requirements under MoIT's management scope. The Circular took effect on 1 July 2026, replacing Circular No. 41/2023/TT-BCT.[2] It affects organizations and individuals producing and trading products and goods included in the list.

The list of covered products and goods includes corresponding harmonized system codes and national technical regulations. According to the WTO notification, the list of medium-risk products and goods comprises seven groups:

- tissue paper and toilet paper
- chemicals and chemical-containing products
- industrial explosives
  high explosives
- industrial explosive accessories
- industrial machinery, equipment, and materials
- explosive precursors

More information can be found in this notification to the World Trade Organization.

[2] *On 28 December 2023, Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MoIT) issued Circular No. 41/2023/TT-BCT establishing the official list of potentially unsafe products and goods (Group 2 goods) under the state management responsibility of the MoIT. Products and goods on the list are subject to applicable quality management requirements, including conformity assessment and declaration requirements under corresponding national technical regulations.*

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Amendments to National Technical Regulations on limits of lead content in paints, mercury content in fluorescent lamps, formaldehyde, and aromatic amines derived from azo dyes in textile products (draft)

Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) proposed Draft Amendment 1:2026 to update conformity assessment and registration rules for textiles, fluorescent lamps, and paints. The amendment aligns three existing National Technical Regulations (QCVN 01:2017/BCT, QCVN 02A:2020/BCT, and QCVN 08:2020/BCT) with the amended Law on Product and Goods Quality and Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BKHCN. It does not change the existing chemical limits for formaldehyde, mercury, or lead.

The regulations contain the following relevant annexes and tables:

- QCVN 02A:2020/BCT (Lamps): Table 1 sets maximum mercury limits per lamp type; the Appendix lists covered fluorescent lamp products alongside their Harmonized System codes
- QCVN 08:2020/BCT (Paints): Appendix A specifies the regulated paint products; Appendix B details the standard testing methods for lead content
- QCVN 01:2017/BCT (Textiles): Annex I lists the specific textile products subject to formaldehyde and azo dye restrictions

The amendment updates administrative requirements for manufacturers, importers, and distributors of the regulated products. The chemical limits remain unchanged, but businesses must follow new conformity assessment procedures under Circular No. 14/2026/TT-BKHCN:

- importers must use Method 1 to assess conformity
- domestic manufacturers must use Method 5 to assess conformity
- organizations must register their conformity declarations digitally via the National Database on Standards, Metrology, and Quality
- organizations must comply with updated labeling and transportation rules for dangerous goods, aligning with Decrees No. 34/2024/ND-CP and 161/2024/ND-CP

The deadline for comments was 27 June 2026. The amendments entered into force on 1 July 2026. Market surveillance forces will inspect circulating products to enforce compliance and the Department of Domestic Market Management and Development handles general violations.

More information can be found in Vietnamese in QCVN 02A:2020/BCT; in Amendment 1:2026 QCVN 02A:2020/BCT in English and in Vietnamese; in Amendment 1:2026 QCVN 08:2020/BCT in English and in Vietnamese; and in 2026/TT-BCT in English and in Vietnamese.

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EUROPE

European Union

Amendment to regulations on synthetic polymer microparticles (published)

The European Commission has adopted Commission Regulation (EU) 2026/1168 amending the restriction on synthetic polymer microparticles set out in Entry 78 of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation. Entry 78 restricts the placing on the market of synthetic polymer microparticles and includes derogations, information, labeling, and reporting requirements for certain products containing these microparticles. The amendment clarifies the scope of certain derogations and addresses implementation issues identified following the entry into force of the microplastics restriction.

Entry 78 of Annex XVII to REACH is amended as follows:

- a new derogation is introduced for synthetic polymer microparticles, on their own or in mixtures, used in product and process orientated research and development (PPORD) in quantities of one tonne per year or less
- the PPORD derogation applies irrespective of where the PPORD takes place
- the exemption for synthetic polymer microparticles permanently incorporated into a solid matrix is narrowed to only apply where the intended end use lasts for one year or longer

The amendment concerning the PPORD derogation applies retroactively from 17 October 2023, the date on which Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 entered into force.

The revised requirement concerning synthetic polymer microparticles incorporated into a solid matrix will apply from 22 June 2028, providing stakeholders with additional time to take appropriate measures to comply with the modified derogation.

The regulation enters into force on 22 June 2026. Penalties are not mentioned in the update.

Updated Waste Shipment Regulation and the Digital Waste Shipment System are brought into operations (in force)

The European Union's (EU's) updated Waste Shipment Regulation, issued by EU institutions, and the Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS) platform were brought into operation on 21 May 2026. The regulation strengthens controls on waste exports, particularly to non-OECD countries, and introduces enhanced requirements to ensure environmentally sound management of waste. It also establishes the use of the DIWASS platform for the digital notification and tracking of cross-border waste shipments, supporting improved transparency and oversight. The source confirms the go-live date but does not specify detailed phased compliance deadlines.

For the aerospace and defense sector, the regulation is indirectly relevant where operations involve the international movement of waste, including hazardous materials generated through manufacturing, maintenance, or decommissioning activities. Companies with cross-border supply chains may be affected by increased documentation, tracking, and export

control requirements. Enforcement is expected to be strengthened by EU and Member State authorities; however, specific penalties or fines for non-compliance are not explicitly outlined in the source.

Restrictions on steelmaking slags and iron blast furnace slags (consultation)

The Netherlands competent authority has initiated a call for evidence through the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to support an investigation into a potential restriction under REACH for steelmaking slags and iron blast furnace slags. The investigation covers:

- steelmaking slags: basic oxygen steelmaking slags, electric arc furnace carbon steel slags, and electric arc furnace stainless steel slags
- iron blast furnace slags: air-cooled blast furnace slags and granulated blast furnace slags

The launch of the call for evidence marks the beginning of a fact-finding exercise that could inform a future REACH restriction proposal covering steelmaking slags and iron blast furnace slags. At this stage, no restriction has been proposed, and no regulatory requirements have changed. Stakeholders had until 8 July 2026 to submit information that may assist the Netherlands competent authority in its assessment. There are no penalties associated with this consultation.

Implementing Regulation for the Digital Product Passport established under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (consultation)

On 21 May 2026, the European Commission announced a proposal for an Implementing Regulation for the Digital Product Passport (DPP) Registry established under the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation [ESPR; Regulation (EU) 2024/1781]. The DPP was introduced to provide easy access to digital information related to a product's sustainability, circularity, and legal compliance. Comments were due on 15 June 2026.

The draft Implementing Regulation establishes:

- components of the DPP Registry
- registration procedures for economic operators and other value-chain actors
- technical and operational obligations for users of the registry
- roles and responsibilities of economic operators, service providers, competent authorities, customs authorities, and the European Commission
- requirements for registry maintenance, operation, security, and responsibility allocation
- a logging and monitoring system to record interactions and activities within the registry
- accountability and traceability mechanisms for all registry users

The framework applies both to products regulated under the ESPR and to products covered by other EU legislation requiring DPP. The proposed rules would apply to economic operators placing on the market or putting into service products covered by DPP requirements, including:

- products covered by delegated acts adopted pursuant to Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1781
- batteries regulated under Article 77 of Regulation (EU) 2023/1542
- construction products regulated under Article 76 of Regulation (EU) 2024/3110
- toys regulated under Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2025/2509
- detergents regulated under Article 21 of Regulation (EU) 2026/405
- any other products subject to Union legislation requiring a Digital Product Passport and registration within the DPP Registry established under Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1781

The proposal would apply to economic operators and other value-chain actors, including digital product passport service providers, authorized representatives, repairers, refurbishers, remanufacturers and recyclers. It would also apply to competent national authorities, customs authorities, and the European Commission.

According to the notification, the objective and rationale are to establish operational arrangements for registering relevant economic operators and other value-chain actors, and to support the prevention of deceptive practices and consumer protection.

The Commission intends to adopt the Implementing Regulation on 19 July 2026, with entry into force occurring 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. There are no penalties associated with the proposal.

Updates to the Registry of classification and labeling intentions until outcome regarding (intention)

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) updated the Registry of classification and labeling (CLH) intentions until outcome on 1 June 2026. The registry tracks proposals for new or revised harmonized classifications of chemical substances and relates to the harmonized classification and labeling process under the CLP framework. The database contains 911 unique substances/entries and shows 1,011 results. The registry allows users to filter substances by identifiers, including EC and CAS numbers, status, submitter, regulatory program, and latest update date. The latest entries include new intentions and status changes for substances under regulatory program including chemicals registered under REACH, active substances in biocidal products, and active substances in plant protection products.

The latest update includes entries with statuses such as consultation, submitted, opinion development, opinion adopted, and intention. For the applicable categories, the draft states that the derogations would only apply where required to ensure the safety of the user and the appliance. Once adopted, the regulation will enter into force twenty days after publication in the Official Journal of the European Union. There are no penalties specified in the draft.

Ecodesign requirements for iron and steel products (consultation)

The European Commission's "Ecodesign requirements for iron and steel products" initiative, published under the Have Your Say platform, forms part of the implementation of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR). The initiative represents a policy development and consultation process to inform future delegated legislation introducing product-specific sustainability requirements for iron and steel. It identifies these materials as priority product groups under the ESPR 2025–2030 working plan, with indicative adoption of the corresponding measures targeted around 2026. The initiative signals potential requirements related to durability, recyclability, and environmental performance transparency, but does not establish binding obligations at this stage.

For the aerospace and defense sector, the initiative is indirectly relevant through upstream supply chains, particularly where specialty steels and alloys are placed on the European Union market. Future ESPR measures may introduce additional data disclosure and sustainability performance requirements that flow through suppliers. As the initiative is in a preparatory stage, the source does not define specific compliance dates, obligations, or penalties for non-compliance, with enforcement mechanisms to be determined following the adoption of delegated acts. The call for evidence and public consultation is open until 12 August 2026.

Norway

Implementation of the European Union Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (announced)

Norway has confirmed that it will not implement the European Union (EU) Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR) by 12 August 2026, when the Regulation begins to apply across EU Member States. According to Grønt Punkt Norge, the Norwegian Environment Agency is still preparing national implementing legislation and must conduct a public consultation before implementation. The delay is also linked to the fact that the PPWR has not yet been incorporated into the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement.

The PPWR establishes harmonized requirements for packaging placed on the EU market, including packaging composition, recyclability, reuse systems, refill obligations, labeling, technical documentation, conformity assessment, and restrictions on certain substances. Requirements beginning to apply in the EU from 12 August 2026 include general economic operator obligations, technical documentation, and declaration of conformity requirements, PFAS restrictions for food-contact packaging, reusable packaging and reuse-system requirements, and refill obligations for the hospitality sector.

Although Norwegian implementation is delayed, companies exporting packaging or packaged goods to EU Member States will still need to comply with applicable PPWR requirements from 12 August 2026. Businesses operating only in Norway may continue to follow existing national packaging rules until the Regulation is incorporated into the EEA framework and implemented through Norwegian legislation.

More information can be found here in Norwegian.

Sweden

Changes to the Swedish Environmental Code regarding classification, labeling, and packaging, and shipment of waste (in force)

The draft bill Prop. 2025/26:270 (can be found here in Swedish) proposes changes to the Swedish Environmental Code to supplement the European Union (EU) Regulation on Classification, Labeling, and Packaging of Substances and Mixtures (CLP Regulation), the new EU Regulation on Shipments of Waste, and the new EU Regulation on Packaging. The underlying EU regulations aim to ensure a high level of protection for human health and the environment, prevent packaging waste, and safely regulate cross-border waste shipments. The proposed national amendments provide the necessary legal framework in Sweden to introduce criminal penalties for CLP violations, grant enforcement powers for waste shipments, and allow for national exemptions under the EU Packaging Regulation.

The draft amendment contains eleven appendices. These include summaries of government commission reports on the revised CLP Regulation, Waste Shipment Regulation, and Packaging Regulation, alongside the corresponding legislative proposals, lists of referral bodies, the Legislative Council's draft legislation, and the formal opinion of the Legal Affairs Council. The draft amendment introduces rules for suppliers providing hazardous substances and mixtures via filling stations:

CLP requirements for filling stations

- The draft amendment prohibits the supply of certain hazardous substances and mixtures (such as those with acute toxicity requiring child-resistant fastenings or tactile warnings) via filling stations.

- Suppliers hold the responsibility to ensure that any substance or mixture supplied through a filling station is legally permitted for this method.
- Suppliers must guarantee that all packages filled via a filling station comply with standard CLP packaging and labeling requirements.
- Suppliers must affix horizontal, visible, and difficult-to-remove labels on the filling station corresponding to the specific hazardous substances or mixtures supplied at that station.

CLP alternative labeling methods

- Suppliers using digital labels must attach a data carrier to the physical label or packaging and ensure all digital labeling information is consolidated in one place.
- Suppliers of ammunition intended for the armed forces must provide a safety data sheet or a physical copy of the labeling information instead of standard packaging labels.
- Suppliers of unpackaged substances pumped directly into vehicle containers must display the labeling information visibly on the pump.

Waste shipments

- The amendment grants supervisory authorities the power to retain or dispose of waste. This measure ensures compliance with prohibitions and injunctions under the new EU Waste Shipment Regulation.

Packaging waste and deposit fees

- The Government or a designated authority may grant specific exemptions from waste prevention measures under the EU Packaging Regulation, such as exempting micro-enterprises from bans on certain unnecessary packaging formats.
- The Government or a designated authority may require actors other than producers (such as retailers operating at the point of sale) to charge a deposit fee. This requirement aims to ensure the efficient collection of packaging waste to improve recycling quality

The legislative amendments are proposed to enter into force on 2 January 2027.

Ukraine

Law to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol regarding hydrofluorocarbons (draft)

The Ukrainian Ministry of Economy, Environment, and Agriculture has released a draft law (can be found here in Ukrainian) to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol (comments due by 19 June 2026). This amendment requires member states to gradually phase down the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Ratifying the amendment ensures Ukraine aligns with global environmental targets and protects domestic industries from future international trade bans on these substances. The comparative tables accompanying the draft law outline several structural updates to the Protocol. Key additions include:

- Annexes A and C: Existing annexes are amended to incorporate Global Warming Potential (GWP) values alongside their currently listed Ozone-Depleting Potentials
- Annex F (Controlled Substances): A new annex categorizing HFCs into two groups and establishing their 100-year GWP

The proposed ratification legally commits Ukraine to a phased reduction in HFC production and consumption, which will be calculated in CO_2 equivalents rather than mandating an immediate phase-out. To manage this transition, Ukraine will implement the following measures:

- Licensing System: The country must establish and implement a licensing system covering the import and export of new, used, recycled, and reclaimed Annex F controlled substances
- Exemptions: Calculated levels of production and consumption will exclude HFCs that are destroyed using approved technologies, amounts used entirely as chemical feedstock, and specific critical-use exemptions

These requirements will primarily affect manufacturers, importers, and distributors of refrigerants and air-conditioning equipment, who will need to transition toward alternative, energy-efficient refrigerants to remain compliant.

More information can be found Ukrainian in this notice. Other information can be found in this comparative table.

United Kingdom

The Chemicals (Health and Safety) (Amendment, Consequential and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (in force)

On 30 April 2026, the Chemicals (Health and Safety) (Amendment, Consequential and Transitional Provision) Regulations 2026 (SI 2026/484) were made. The Regulations came into force on 21 May 2026 and amend provisions of Great Britain's (GB's) chemicals regulatory framework relating to classification, labeling, and the export and import of hazardous chemicals. The Regulations were made under the Retained European Union Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 and extend to England, Wales, and Scotland.

The Regulations amend GB Classification, Labeling, and Packaging (GB CLP) and GB Prior Informed Consent Regulation (GB PIC). They also include transitional provisions for ongoing classification and labeling proposals submitted before the new framework entered into force. GB CLP amendments revise the mandatory classification and labeling process. Articles 37 and 37A are replaced with a single Article 37, which includes a fast-track process for proposals from certain territories or authorities, including the EU, and a procedure for other proposals. The Secretary of State's functions relating to decisions and compliance dates under the new Article 37 are subject to Article 53B's consent requirement. The new Article 37 also provides that certain proposal requirements do not apply to manufacturers, importers, or downstream users established in Northern Ireland who supply qualifying Northern Ireland goods directly to Great Britain.

The amendments also revoke Chapter 2 of Title V of GB CLP, which provided for supplier notification requirements and the HSE[3] publicly accessible GB notification database. Technical notes relating to entries on the mandatory classification and labeling list are also revoked, and consequential amendments are made to REACH and the Health and Safety and Nuclear (Fees) Regulations 2022.

GB PIC amendments revise requirements relating to the export and import of hazardous chemicals. The amendments remove additional conditions that previously applied only to certain chemicals, so that the same conditions apply to all chemicals requiring explicit or prior informed consent for import. They also remove the requirement for exporters in certain cases to obtain a special reference identification number and include it in the export declaration. Certain responsibilities for including chemicals on the GB PIC list and updating Parts 1 to 3 of the list are transferred from the Secretary of State to the Designated National Authority. References to Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 are replaced with references to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 on persistent organic pollutants.

[3] HSE = Health and Safety Executive

No new substance restrictions are listed in the Regulations. The amendments revise mechanisms governing mandatory classification and labeling, related REACH consequential provisions, and hazardous chemical export and import requirements. Penalties are not specified in the Regulations.

Addition of fifteen substances and substance groups to the UK REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (effective)

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), acting as the Agency for UK REACH, has added fifteen substances and substance groups to the UK REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHCs) following a six-week public consultation. The substances were formally included on the Candidate List on 15 June 2026 and are now subject to the Candidate List obligations under UK REACH. The UK REACH Candidate List identifies substances considered to pose significant hazards to human health or the environment. Inclusion on the Candidate List does not prohibit the manufacture, import or use of a substance, but it triggers specific information, communication, and notification obligations throughout the supply chain.

The newly added SVHC entries are:

- 2,2',6,6'-tetrabromo-4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol (TBBPA; EC No. 201-236-9; CAS No. 79-94-7)
- 2,2-bis(bromomethyl)propane-1,3-diol (BMP) [1]; 2,2-dimethylpropan-1-ol, tribromo derivative (TBNPA) [2]; and 2,3-dibromo-1-propanol (2,3-DBPA) [3] (EC No. 799-968-1 [group], 221-967-7 [1], 253-057-0 [2], 202-480-9 [3]; CAS No. 3296-90-0 [1], 36483-57-5/1522-92-5 [2], 96-13-9 [3])
- 2-(4-tert-butylbenzyl)propionaldehyde [1] and its individual stereoisomers (2S)-3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methyl-propanal [2] and (2R)-3-(4-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methyl-propanal [3] (Lysmeral) (EC Nos. 799-970-2 [group], 201-289-8 [1]; CAS No. 80-54-6 [1], 75166-30-2 [2], 75166-31-3 [3])
- 2-(dimethylamino)-2-[(4-methylphenyl)methyl]-1-[4-(morpholin-4-yl)phenyl]butan-1-one (Omnirad; EC No. 438-340-0; CAS No. 119344-86-4)
- 6,6'-di-tert-butyl-2,2'-methylenedi-p-cresol (DBMC) (EC No. 204-327-1; CAS no. 119-47-1)
- 6-[(C10-C13)-alkyl-(branched, unsaturated)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl]hexanoic acid (Tetra-PSCA) (EC No. 701-118-1; CAS No. 2156592-54-8)
- barium diboron tetraoxide (EC No. 237-222-4; CAS No. 13701-59-2)
- bis(2-(2-methoxyethoxy)ethyl)ether (tetraglyme) (EC No. 205-594-7; CAS No. 143-24-8)
- bis(α,α-dimethylbenzyl) peroxide (EC No. 201-279-3; CAS No. 80-43-3)
- dioctyltin dilaurate, stannane, dioctyl-, bis(coco acyloxy) derivatives [1], and any other stannane, dioctyl-, bis(fatty acyloxy) derivatives[2] wherein C12 is the predominant carbon number of the fatty acyloxy moiety (DOTL; EC Nos. 799-973-9 [group], 222-883-3 [1], 293-901-5 [2]; CAS Nos. 3648-18-8 [1], 91648- 39-4 [2])
- diphenyl(2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl)phosphine oxide (EC No. 278-355-8; CAS No. 75980-60-8)
- N-(hydroxymethyl)acrylamide (EC No. 213-103-2; CAS No. 924-42-5)
- orthoboric acid, sodium salt [group], boric acid (H3BO3), sodium salt, hydrate [1], trisodium orthoborate [2], boric acid, sodium salt [3], boric acid (H3BO3), disodium salt [4], orthoboric acid, sodium salt [5], boric acid (H3BO3), sodium salt (1:1) [6] (EC Nos 799-969-7 [group], 238-253-6 [2], 215-604-1 [3], 237-560-2 [5]; CAS No. 25747-83-5 [1], 14312-40-4 [2], 1333-73-9 [3], 22454-04-2 [4], 13840-56-7 [5], 14890-53-0 [6])
- Reactive Brown 51 (EC No. 466-490-7; CAS No. not available)
- tris(2-methoxyethoxy)vinylsilane (EC No. 213-934-0; CAS No. 1067-53-4)

Following inclusion, suppliers of these substances will be required to communicate information on SVHCs in articles and mixtures, provide information throughout the supply chain, and fulfil applicable notification obligations under UK REACH.

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The substances were added to the Candidate List on 15 June 2026. Companies supplying substances, mixtures or articles containing these SVHCs should review their UK REACH compliance obligations. Penalties for non-compliance are determined under applicable UK REACH enforcement provisions.

Introducing a third-party certification for mechanically recycled plastic packaging (consultation)

The United Kingdom (UK) Revenue & Customs (HMRC) has opened a consultation on introducing mandatory third-party certification for mechanically recycled plastic packaging. The Plastic Packaging Tax (PPT) currently charges £228.82 per tonne on packaging containing less than 30% recycled plastic. Because there is no physical test to verify recycled content, the government wants to mitigate the risk of fraudulent and erroneous exemption claims. To address this, the government proposes that UK manufacturers and importers use independent certification schemes, and this will standardize the required evidence, improve supply chain traceability, and ensure fair competition for compliant businesses.

The consultation seeks feedback from businesses across the plastics supply chain including mechanical plastic recyclers, packaging manufacturers, importers, waste management companies, and tax advisers. The government is asking for input on the current prevalence of fraud, the potential administrative and financial burdens of mandatory certification, and feasible timelines for implementation. It also seeks practical insights into how the certification schemes should operate, such as required audit frequencies and the use of segregated or controlled blending chain of custody models. This Stage 1 consultation is opened until 10 August 2026.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Orders amending the Domestic Substances List and Non-domestic Substances List (published)

Order 2026-87-05-02

On 23 May 2026, Canada published Order 2026-87-05-02 amending the Non-domestic Substances List (NDSL) under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). The amendment removes three substances from Part I of the NDSL because they have been added to the Domestic Substances List (DSL). The DSL serves as Canada's inventory of substances that are considered in commerce in Canada, while the NDSL identifies substances that are not on the DSL but are recognized in commerce elsewhere. The Order consists of two provisions:

- Section 1 removes three CAS numbers from Part I of the NDSL
  - CAS No. 9011-12-5[4]
  - CAS No. 65870-97-5[5]
  - CAS No. 68525-95-1[6]

[4] CAS No. 9011-12-5 corresponds with benzene, ethenyl-, polymer with 2-methyl-1-propene

[5] *CAS No. 65870-97-5 corresponds with hexanoic acid, 3,5,5-trimethyl-, 1,1'-[oxybis[2,2-bis[[(3,5,5-trimethyl-1-oxohexyl)oxy]methyl]-3,1-propanediyl]] ester.*

[6] *CAS No. 68525-95-1 corresponds with fatty acids, coco, polymers with ethylene glycol, glycerol, pentaerythritol and phthalic anhydride.*

- Section 2 establishes the coming-into-force provision, linking the amendment to the entry into force of Order 2026-87-05-01 that amends the DSL.

The amendment reflects the addition of these substances to the DSL under a separate order issued pursuant to subsections 87(1) and 87(5) of CEPA. For companies manufacturing, importing, or using these substances in Canada, the amendment confirms that the substances are now recognized as domestic substances under CEPA and are no longer listed on the NDSL.

The amendment is an administrative update to Canada's chemicals inventory framework and ensures consistency between the DSL and the NDSL. The Order was signed on 11 May 2026 and published in the Canada Gazette on 23 May 2026. It will enter into force simultaneously with Order 2026-87-05-01 Amending the DSL. There are no new penalties associated with this update.

Order 2026-87-06-02

Order 2026-87-06-02 removes CAS No. 12027-96-2[7] from the NDSL following its addition to the DSL. The amendment affects the regulatory inventory status of the substance in Canada but does not introduce new restrictions, classifications, or risk management measures. The Order enters into force on the same day as Order 2026-87-06-01 amending the DSL.

Orders 2026-66-05-01, 2026-87-05-01, 2026-112-05-01, and 2026-87-04-01

Canada has published four Orders amending the DSL under CEPA. The Orders add assessed chemicals, polymers and living organisms to the DSL, correct the identifier of one polymer entry, and maintain Significant New Activity (SNAc)[8] requirements for two substances where certain future uses may require further assessment. Substances added to the DSL are generally no longer subject to new substance notification requirements in Canada, provided activities remain within the scope of the listing.

Order 2026-66-05-01 corrects the DSL identifier for polymer CAS No. 351498-70-9[9] by replacing the notation "T-P" with "T". Order 2026-87-05-01 (see entry above under Order 2026-87-05-02) adds six chemicals and polymers to the DSL. Order 2026-112-05-01 adds sixteen living organisms to the DSL. Order 2026-87-04-01 adds two substances to Part 2 of the DSL while maintaining SNAc requirements for those substances.

The SNAc requirements apply to CAS No. 175283-06-4[10] and CAS No. 2529890-37-5[11]. A SNAc Notification must be submitted at least 90 days before undertaking a covered significant new activity. For CAS No. 175283-06-4, the triggers include certain uses in consumer products or cosmetics containing the substance at a concentration of at least 1.0% by weight where the product releases or sprays airborne particles of ten micrometers or less. For CAS No. 2529890-37-5, the triggers include certain uses in consumer products or cosmetics, other than as a fuel additive, where the product contains the substance at a concentration of at least 1.0% by weight. The SNAc requirements also apply to imports of covered products where the applicable concentration and annual quantity thresholds are met.

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[7] CAS No. 12027-96-2 corresponds with zinc stannate (synonyms: zinchydroxystannate; zinc hydoxystannate; zinc oxostannanediolate; and zinc hexahydroxystannate).
[8] SNAc provisions require notification before certain new or changed uses of a listed substance.
[9] CAS No. 351498-70-9 corresponds with siloxanes and silicones, di-Me, hydrogen-terminated, polymers with N,N'-1,6-hexanediylbis[10-udecenamide], 11-oxo-11-[[6-[(1-oxohexadecyl) amino)hexyl]undecyl group-terminated.
[10] CAS No. 175283-06-4 corresponds with Isooctyl acrylate-3-methacryloyloxypropyltris(trimethylsiloxy) silane-methyl methacrylate copolymer.
[11] CAS No. 2529890-37-5 corresponds with alkanes, C4-8-branched and linear.

Draft Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines for four rare earth elements: cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, and yttrium (consultation)

On 16 May 2026, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) published draft Federal Environmental Quality Guidelines (FEQGs) for four rare earth elements (REEs): cerium (CAS No. 7440-45-1), lanthanum (CAS No. 7439-91-0), neodymium (CAS No. 7440-00-8), and yttrium (CAS No. 7440-65-5). The proposal has been released for a 60-day public consultation period (comments due on 15 July 2026) under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999. The guidelines are intended to provide science-based environmental quality thresholds for freshwater and sediment. FEQGs are voluntary guidance values used to support pollution prevention, environmental monitoring, contaminated site assessment, and evaluation of risk management measures. ECCC notes that cerium, lanthanum, neodymium, and yttrium were selected due to available toxicity data, their identification as priorities under Canada's Chemicals Management Plan, and their inclusion on Canada's critical minerals list.

The draft FEQGs establish environmental guideline values for:

- freshwater (short-term exposure benchmarks)
- freshwater (long-term exposure guidelines)
- freshwater sediment (organic carbon-normalized sediment guidelines)

The document also provides supporting scientific information on:

- substance identity and properties
- sources and industrial uses
- environmental occurrence and monitoring data
- ecotoxicological studies
- guideline derivation methodology
- environmental risk considerations for freshwater and sediment ecosystems

The draft FEQGs propose the following environmental quality guideline values for rare earth elements:

- cerium
  - short-term freshwater benchmark: 81 micrograms per liter (µg/L) (total)
  - long-term freshwater guideline: 1.6 µg/L (dissolved)
  - sediment guideline: 25 micrograms per kilogram (mg/kg) dry weight (normalized to 1% organic carbon)
- lanthanum
  - short-term freshwater benchmark: 160 µg/L (total)
  - long-term freshwater guideline: 2.4 µg/L (dissolved)
  - Sediment guideline: 27 mg/kg dry weight (normalized to 1% organic carbon)
- neodymium
  - short-term freshwater benchmark: 23 µg/L (dissolved)
  - long-term freshwater guideline: 1.1 µg/L (dissolved)
  - sediment guideline: 29 mg/kg dry weight (normalized to 1% organic carbon)
- yttrium
  - short-term freshwater benchmark: 22 µg/L (dissolved)
  - long-term freshwater guideline: 1.9 µg/L (dissolved)
  - sediment guideline: 24 mg/kg dry weight (normalized to 1% organic carbon)

The sediment guideline values are normalized to 1% organic carbon and should be adjusted where necessary when assessing environmental monitoring data. The guideline document states that there are no existing FEQGs or Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment guidelines for the four REEs. The draft values are intended to support

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environmental assessment, monitoring and risk management activities associated with increasing rare earth element production and use. There are no direct penalties associated with this consultation.

Final assessment of ten substances in the Ketones Group (consultation)

The Department of Environment (DoE) and the Department of Health (DoH) jointly published the final assessment of ten substances in the Ketones Group under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). The assessment concludes that methyl ethyl ketone (MEK, CAS No. 78-93-3) and methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK, CAS No. 108-10-1) meet the toxicity criteria under CEPA due to human health concerns. The government proposes to restrict their use in consumer products and has opened a 60-day public consultation (comments due on 15 July 2026) on the risk management approach. The remaining eight substances do not currently pose a danger to human health or the environment at current exposure levels.

The ten substances are:

- methyl ethyl ketone (MEK; CAS No 78-93-3) – Domestic Substances List (DSL) name: 2-butanone
- methyl propyl ketone (MPK; CAS No. 107-87-9) – DSL name: 2-pentanone
- methyl isobutyl ketone (MIBK; CAS No. 108-10-1) – DSL name: 2-pentanone, 4-methyl-
- methyl isoamyl ketone (MIAK; CAS No. 110-12-3) – DSL name: 2-hexanone, 5-methyl
- diacetone alcohol (DAA; CAS No. 123-42-2) – DSL name: 2-pentanone, 4-hydroxy-4-methyl-
- diacetyl (CAS No. 431-03-8) – DSL name: 2,3-butanedione
- acetoin (CAS No. 513-86-0) – DSL name: 2-butanone, 3-hydroxy
- 2,3-pentanedione (2,3-PD; CAS No. 600-14-6) – DSL name: 2,3-pentanedione
- 2,4-pentanedione (2,4-PD; CAS No. 123-54-6) – DSL name: 2,4-pentanedione
- mesityl oxide (MO; CAS No. 141-79-7) – DSL name: 3-penten-2-one, 4-methyl-

The assessment identified inadequate safety margins for human exposure to MEK and MIBK in consumer products, such as paint or coating removers, adhesives, wood lacquers, liquid paints, and various spray products. Consequently, the DoE and DoH propose the following actions:

- add MEK and MIBK to Part 2 of Schedule 1 of CEPA
- develop regulations restricting the use of MEK and MIBK in consumer products
- add 2,4-PD to the "List of substances capable of becoming toxic"; DoE and DoH will track its commercial status and new uses, as increased exposure could pose health risks
- take no further regulatory action on the remaining seven ketone substances at this time

Mexico

Draft Official Mexican Standard PROY-NOM-160-SEMARNAT-2026, establishing the elements and procedures for formulating hazardous waste management plans (consultation)

Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) has launched a public consultation on Draft Official Mexican Standard PROY-NOM-160-SEMARNAT-2026, which establishes the elements and procedures for formulating hazardous waste management plans. The draft would apply to large hazardous waste generators, producers, importers, exporters, and distributors of products that become hazardous waste when discarded, as well as certain additional hazardous waste generators covered under the General Law for the Prevention and Integral Management of Waste (LGPGIR).

The proposal specifies the information and procedures required for hazardous waste management plans, including waste identification, waste minimization measures, recovery and recycling activities, handling arrangements, traceability documentation, adherence to existing plans, modification procedures, cancellation of registrations, and conformity assessment requirements. The draft would replace and substantially revise an earlier 2011 proposal.

More information can be found here in Spanish. Comments can be provided in this consultation link until 8 August 2026.

United States

Significant new use rules on certain chemical substances that were subject of premanufacture notices (published)

On 29 May 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized significant new use rules (SNURs) under Section 5 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) for thirty-five chemical substances that were the subject of premanufacture notices and are also subject to TSCA Orders issued by EPA. The final rule requires persons to notify EPA at least 90 days before commencing manufacture, including import, or processing of any of the substances for activities designated as significant new uses.

The SNURs identify as significant new uses manufacturing, processing, use, distribution in commerce, or disposal activities that do not conform to the restrictions imposed by the underlying TSCA Orders. The required notification must be submitted through a Significant New Use Notice (SNUN), and the activity may not begin until EPA has reviewed the notice, made the required determination, and taken any action required by that determination.

The rule applies to manufacturers, processors, and users of the listed chemical substances. Importers and exporters may also have obligations under existing TSCA import certification and Section 12(b) export notification requirements, where applicable.

EPA finalized the rule with changes following the proposed rule, including removal of wording from one SNUR because it was not included in the underlying TSCA Order, clarification of wording for one PMN substance,[12] replacement of one generic chemical name with a specific chemical name and CAS Number, and updates to generic chemical names for two PMN substances. The final rule becomes effective on 28 July 2026.

Significant new use rules on certain chemical substances (published)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule establishing significant new use rules (SNURs) for specific chemical substances. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) section 5(a)(2), the EPA has the authority to designate specific chemical uses as a "significant new use". This update ensures the EPA receives notification to evaluate potential risks before non-conforming activities begin for chemicals subject to premanufacture notices (PMNs) and existing TSCA Orders.

The rule amends 40 CFR Chapter I by adding new sections to Part 721, Subpart E.

[12] *A PMN substance is a "new chemical substance" that is not currently listed on the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory and requires a Pre-manufacture Notice (PMN) to be filed before commercial production or import.*

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- Sections 721.12112 through 721.12114 and 721.12121 through 721.12146 list the specific chemical substances
- each section outlines designated significant new uses, such as workplace protection standards, hazard communication, and disposal limits
- each section dictates specific recordkeeping requirements

Manufacturers, importers, and processors must comply with the following requirements:

- submit a significant new use notice (SNUN) to EPA at least 90 days before starting a designated significant new use
- wait for EPA to review the SNUN, make a determination, and take required actions before commencing the new use
- certify that incoming chemical shipments comply with all TSCA rules, as required of importers
- provide a one-time export notification to EPA for the first export to a specific country under TSCA section 12(b)
- pay associated user fees for SNUN submissions – there are no exemptions allowing entities to continue restricted activities without filing a SNUN because EPA determined none of the designated new uses are currently ongoing

The rule was published in the Federal Register on 22 May 2026 and enters into force on 21 July 2026. EPA had set the cutoff date for determining ongoing uses as 3 November 2025. There are no penalties specified in this update, however standard TSCA enforcement provisions apply to non-compliance.

Reconsideration of certain regulatory requirements promulgated under the Technology Transitions Provisions of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (published)

On 28 May 2026, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published finalized amendments to regulations adopted under the Technology Transitions Provisions of the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act of 2020 (AIM Act), which authorizes the agency to restrict the use of regulated substances, including hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), in specific sectors and subsectors. The amendments respond to administrative petitions and stakeholder feedback received from industry and other interested parties regarding the implementation of existing HFC transition requirements. The AIM Act, enacted on 27 December 2020, empowers the EPA to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs, manage HFCs and their substitutes, and promote the transition to next-generation technologies.

The final rule (amendment) revises requirements applicable across several refrigeration and air-conditioning subsectors regulated under the AIM Act Technology Transitions program. The amendments affect compliance requirements for equipment manufacturers, importers and other regulated entities operating within specified refrigeration, cooling, and heat pump sectors. The rule also updates requirements and restrictions applicable to the subsectors including refrigerated transport (intermodal containers), industrial process refrigeration systems, chillers used in semiconductor manufacturing, and condensing units used in residential and light commercial air conditioning and heat pumps. Residential and light commercial air-conditioning and heat-pump equipment that were manufactured in, or imported into, the US before 1 January 2025 are to continue to be installed. This provision addresses existing inventory manufactured or imported before the applicable transition date.

The amendments will enter into force on 27 July 2026. Penalties for non-compliance remain those established under the AIM Act and associated EPA implementing regulations, which include fines.

Reporting deadline extension for the Health and Safety Data Reporting Rule (effective)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule extending the reporting deadline for the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 8(d) Health and Safety Data Reporting Rule by one year, establishing a new deadline of 21 May 2027. The final rule entered into effect on 22 May 2026.

The underlying regulation promulgated in December 2024 requires manufacturers and importers of sixteen specific chemical substances to submit copies and lists of unpublished health and safety studies to support ongoing and upcoming TSCA Section 6 risk evaluation activities. EPA extended the deadline to provide regulatory certainty and prevent duplicative reporting while it considered modifying the scope of the rule. The updated rules amend Table 3 to Paragraph (d), which outlines the sixteen chemical substances to which the reporting rule applies:

- acetaldehyde (CAS No. 75-07-0)
- acrylonitrile (CAS No. 107-13-1)
- 2-anilino-5-[(4-methylpentan-2-yl)amino]cyclohexa-2,5-diene-1,4-dione (6PPD-quinone) (CAS No. 2754428-18-5)
- benzenamine (CAS No. 62-53-3)
- benzene (CAS No. 71-43-2)
- bisphenol A (CAS No. 80-05-7)
- ethyelbenzene (CAS No. 100-41-4)
- hydrogen fluoride (CAS No. 7664-39-3)
- 4,4-methylene bis(2-chloraniline) (CAS No. 101-14-4)
- N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine (6PPD) (CAS No. 793-24-8)
- naphthalene (CAS No. 91-20-3)
- styrene (CAS No. 100-42-5)
- 4-tert-octylphenol(4-(1,1,3,3-Tetramethylbutyl)-phenol) (CAS No. 140-66-9)
- tribromomethane (Bromoform) (CAS No. 75-25-2)
- triglycidyl isocyanurate (CAS No. 2451-62-9)
- vinyl chloride (CAS No. 75-01-4).

The amendment grants affected companies an additional year to prepare their data submissions. This rule affects companies that currently manufacture or import, or have done so within the past ten years, any of the sixteen listed chemicals. EPA granted this extension to alleviate immediate compliance burdens and give industry adequate time to understand any potential new reporting obligations once EPA finishes reviewing the rule. There are no penalties specified on this update.

Amendment to Section 36-1696 of the Arizona Revised Statutes relating to firefighting foam (approved)

On 4 June 2026, Arizona House Bill 2641, Chapter 103, was approved by the Governor. The Bill amends Section 36-1696 of the Arizona Revised Statutes, which regulates Class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The amendment broadens the restriction by replacing the previous prohibition on discharge or use for training purposes with a prohibition on discharging or otherwise using Class B firefighting foam containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals for any purpose, unless otherwise required by law or federal regulation.

Owners or operators of public airports are required to comply with the prohibition from 31 December 2030. The Bill defines "public airport" as an airport that is owned by a political subdivision of Arizona or that is otherwise open to the public. The Bill also removes the previous testing-related provision and the definition of "testing." The Bill is effective from 31 December 2028.

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Department of Defense issued a request for information on defense-related uses of ten chemicals (consultation)

On 12 May 2026, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking information on defense-related uses of ten high priority chemicals undergoing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Section 6 risk evaluation process. The DoD notes that information available through Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) often does not provide sufficient visibility into upstream applications and supply chain uses. As a result, the DoD is seeking direct engagement with industry to better understand how these chemicals are used throughout the defense industrial base and to assess the potential impacts of future regulatory restrictions.

The notice is a voluntary information-gathering exercise rather than a regulatory proposal. The RFI requests information from organizations with relevant applications of the specified chemicals or supply chain information regarding defense-related applications, supply chain dependencies, availability of alternatives, and potential impacts of future TSCA restrictions. Responses are to be submitted using a standardized information template provided by the DoD as part of the Chemical and Material Risk Management Program.

The DoD is requesting information relating to the following substances:

- phthalic anhydride (CAS No. 85-44-9)
- o-dichlorobenzene (CAS No. 95-50-1)
- p-dichlorobenzene (CAS No. 106-46-7)
- 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bis[2,6-dibromophenol] (CAS No. 79-94-7)
- tris(2-chloroethyl) phosphate (CAS No. 115-96-8)
- phosphoric acid, triphenyl ester (CAS No. 115-86-6)
- 1,1,2-trichloroethane (CAS No. 79-00-5)
- trans-1,2-dichloroethylene (CAS No. 156-60-5)
- formaldehyde (CAS No. 50-00-0)
- vinyl chloride (CAS No. 75-01-4)

The response instructions request information covering the following areas:

- company information, including:
  - company name and contact details
  - business classification
  - commercial and government entity (CAGE) code, where applicable
- chemical application information, including:
  - description of the chemical use and associated products
  - whether the substance functions as an additive, reactant/intermediate, or impurity
  - defense-related criticality of the application
  - estimated annual quantities used
  - availability of substitutes and expected transition timelines
  - relevant military standards, specifications, stock numbers, or part numbers
  - identification of the relevant EPA Condition of Use
  - whether the information has been or will be submitted to EPA

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- supply chain information, including:
  - whether the respondent manufactures the substance
  - domestic sourcing arrangements
  - import activities
  - whether the respondent uses products that contain the substance
- how the organization learned about the RFI

The information collected will be used for DoD informational purposes and to support early identification of critical applications, investigation of alternatives, industry and interagency engagement, and management of chemicals critical to national defense. The RFI seeks to improve the understanding of DoD and defense industrial base applications that require these chemicals, and the criticality of those chemicals for industry and defense supply chains. Early identification of critical uses will allow the DoD to assess potential supply chain vulnerabilities, evaluate alternatives, and prepare for future regulatory actions affecting these substances. Responses were due on 19 June 2026 at 5:00 PM EDT. Penalties are not mentioned in the notice.

Risk evaluation for 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bis[2,6-dibromophenol] (consultation)

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a draft risk evaluation for the brominated flame retardant 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bis[2,6-dibromophenol] (TBBPA; CAS No. 79-94-7) under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). EPA preliminarily determined that TBBPA poses an unreasonable risk to human health and the environment under four of its twenty-four evaluated conditions of use. EPA designated TBBPA as a high-priority substance in 2019 for TSCA risk evaluation.

The draft risk evaluation includes an Executive Summary detailing the risk determinations. The main text covers the evaluation scope, chemical fate and transport, environmental releases, human health and environmental risk assessments, and the preliminary unreasonable risk determination. It contains six appendices:

- Appendix A: Key Abbreviations and Acronyms
- Appendix B: Regulatory and Assessment History
- Appendix C: List of Technical Support and Supplemental Files
- Appendix D: Conditions of Use
- Appendix E: Draft Occupational Exposure Value Derivation and Analytical Methods Used to Detect TBBPA
- Appendix F: Information on Personal Protective Equipment from Other Sources

The EPA identified unreasonable risks for:

- workers – inhalation exposure during domestic manufacturing, import, and repackaging
- environment – aquatic life exposure from surface water releases during processing for incorporation into formulations and reaction products in plastic, resin, and paint manufacturing
- EPA did not identify unreasonable risks for consumers, occupational non-users, or the general public across any condition of use

If EPA finalizes these findings, it will develop a TSCA Section 6(a) risk management rule targeting the affected upstream manufacturing and processing applications. This will directly impact manufacturers and importers. EPA will not mandate federal restrictions for consumer or commercial uses, which may preempt states from adopting their own restrictions on those specific applications.

EPA will accept public comments on the draft risk evaluation in the TSCA docket until 17 August 2026. Comments on the peer review materials are due in the Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals docket by 23 July 2026.

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Significant new use rules for fifty-four chemical substances (proposed)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed two batches of significant new use rules (SNURs) under Section 5(a)(2) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) covering a total of fifty-four chemical substances. The substances were previously reviewed through the TSCA new chemicals program and are currently subject to TSCA Section 5(e) consent orders. The proposed SNURs would extend the restrictions contained in those orders to all future manufacturers, importers, and processors of the substances.

The proposals are published under 40 CFR Part 721 and cover two groups of chemical substances. The first proposal covers thirty-five substances and the second proposal covers nineteen substances. The substances are associated with a variety of industrial and commercial applications, including battery components, semiconductor photoresists, paving additives, lubricants, textile softening agents, and construction adhesive sealant foams. Each SNUR identifies activities that EPA considers to be significant new uses and therefore, are subject to prior notification requirements.

Any person intending to manufacture, import or process one of the covered substances for a designated significant new use must submit a significant new use notice (SNUN) to EPA at least 90 days before commencing the activity. Following submission, EPA must evaluate the proposed use and make a determination before manufacture or processing may begin. The proposed SNURs are intended to ensure that the restrictions and protective measures contained in existing TSCA Section 5(e) orders apply to all entities that may subsequently manufacture, import, or process the substances. Companies exporting substances covered by the SNURs may also be subject to TSCA Section 12(b) export notification requirements.

Comments were due on 6 July 2026 and 10 July 2026, respectively. Following review of comments, EPA may finalize the SNURs, at which point affected companies would be required to submit a SNUN at least 90 days before commencing any designated significant new use.

OCEANIA

Australia

Two substances added to the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals (published)

The Australian Industrial Chemicals Introduction Scheme (AICIS) has updated the Australian Inventory of Industrial Chemicals by adding two industrial chemicals. This addition complies with Section 82 of the Industrial Chemicals Act 2019, as five years have passed since the assessment certificates for these chemicals were issued. The update lists the following two chemicals:

- nonanoic acid, mixed tetraesters with 2-ethylhexanoic acid and pentaerythritol (CAS No. 3126995-98-7)
- octadecanoic acid, 12-hydroxy-, reaction products with ethylenediamine and hexanoic acid (CAS No. 2742689-93-4)

For both chemicals, importers and manufacturers must adhere to specific information requirements. Importers and manufacturers must notify AICIS within 28 days if the circumstances of their importation or manufacture (introduction)

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differ from those in the original assessment. AICIS officially listed these chemicals on the inventory on 1 June 2026 and 9 June 2026, respectively, and published the notice on 9 June 2026.

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Adoption of rules and procedures to apply the modifications recently made to the Portable Electric Energy Law (in force)

Argentina has adopted Joint Resolution 1/2026, which establishes the rules and procedures necessary to apply the modifications that were recently made to Argentina's Portable Electrical Energy Law (Law N° 26.184) by Decree N° 431/2025. The Joint Resolution determines technical specifications, conformity assessment procedures, and a control regime for primary batteries. The measure applies to primary batteries and to products or articles containing primary batteries, including those where the batteries are not readily removable. Certain products are excluded from the scope, including primary lithium batteries, rechargeable batteries, and batteries used in non-commercial medical or research applications and testing samples.

Manufacturers and importers must ensure that batteries comply with physical and chemical requirements, including expiry-date marking, protective casing requirements, minimum performance requirements, and heavy metal concentration limits established under Law No. 26,184. Compliance must be demonstrated through a Declaration of Conformity supported by either test reports or product certification. Testing must verify heavy metal content and compliance with applicable performance, marking, and safety requirements. Test reports remain valid for one year, while product certificates remain valid for the period specified in the certificate or, where no expiry date is provided, for three years.

Covered products must be labeled with information including brand, model, origin and expiry or manufacturing information. A conformity marking must be placed on products or their primary packaging. However, for products that contain primary batteries, the conformity marking is voluntary rather than mandatory (Annex, Section 6.2.4.2). The Sub-secretariat of Environment may conduct documentary compliance reviews, while the Secretariat of Industry, Commerce, and Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises may carry out market surveillance and inspections.

This Joint Resolution repeals Resolution No. 443/2020 and Resolution No. 31/2023, which previously governed the import and certification procedures for primary batteries and battery-containing products. Certificates issued under the repealed framework will remain valid until their expiry, with any required surveillance activities continuing during that period. In addition, batteries and primary batteries that do not comply with the requirements set out in the Joint Resolution will be considered hazardous waste under Law No. 24,051 and will be subject to the applicable waste management requirements and penalties.

The resolution entered into force on 16 June 2026. The conformity marking requirement became mandatory on 16 June 2027. Violations are subject to penalties under Law No. 24,240 and Decree No. 274/2019.

More information can be found here in Spanish. The Annex van be found here in English and in Spanish.

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