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New Phthalate Ban in Children's Toys

In September 24, 2004, European Union ministers reached a consensus to permanently impose total ban on the use of phthalates to soften PVC plastic in certain toys. They alleged that phthalates could be harmful to young children who put toys in their mouths. The proposal to outlaw the phthalates will now be forwarded to the European Parliament for second reading and will soon be enacted by the end of 2005.

Phthalates is a group of chemicals and its potential adverse effects draw much concern. They are used in a wide range of applications, including clothing, PVC building materials, medical products, cosmetics, toys, childcare articles and food packaging. Now, the action would override the current three-month temporary restrictions on six phthalates in toys and childcare articles that had been continuously renewed since 1999. The new proposal would focus on the ban of three phthalates (DEHP, DBP and BBP) used in all toys and childcare articles while other phthalates (DINP, DIDP and DNOP) would be banned from use in toys intended for children under three years of age and which can be placed in mouth by them. The new restrictions are summarized in the table below:

新計劃禁止使用的酸酯化學物如下：

於2004年9月24日，歐盟會員部長一致通過要求全面禁止使用酸酯類化學物(Phthalates)，使塑膠玩具型態軟化。他們聲稱當兒童擺放玩具於口中，玩具中的酸酯類化學物對兒童健康有害。此計劃將會呈交歐洲議會進行第二輪審閱，並預計於2005年年底正式生效。

酸酯是一種化學物，其害處令人關注。酸酯用途甚廣，包括衣服、塑膠建築材料、醫藥用品、化妝品、玩具、兒童用品及食物包裝。現時的草案將會取代現正實施三個月短暫的條例，禁止於玩具及兒童用品中使用六種酸酯化學物。此條例於1999年開始實行，並不斷更新。新的計劃將會針對禁止於玩具使用3種酸酯(鄰苯二甲酸二(2-乙基己基)酯DEHP、鄰苯二甲酸二丁酯DBP及BBP)。其他的酸酯(鄰苯二甲酸二異壬酯DINP、鄰苯二甲酸二異癸酯DIDP及鄰苯二甲酸二辛酯(DNOP)亦將會禁止於供三歲以下兒童使用的玩具，避免兒童把玩具放進口中。

Phthalates 酸酯	CAS Number CAS 號碼	Restrictions 禁止於下列物品中使用
Bis-(2-ethylhexyl) Phthalate (DEHP) 鄰苯二甲酸二(2-乙基己基)酯	117-81-7	Ban in all toys and childcare articles 所有玩具及兒童用品
Dibutyl Phthalate (DBP) 鄰苯二甲酸二丁酯	84-74-2	
Benzylbutyl Phthalate (BBP) 鄰苯二甲酸苯基丁酯	85-68-7	
Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP) 鄰苯二甲酸二異壬酯	28553-12-0	Ban in toys intended for children under three years of age and which can be placed in mouth by them 供三歲以下兒童使用的玩具，避免兒童把玩具放進口中
Di-n-octyl Phthalate (DNOP) 鄰苯二甲酸二辛酯	117-84-0	
Diisodecyl Phthalate (DIDP) 鄰苯二甲酸二異癸酯	26761-40-0	

The ban was welcomed by Green members of the European Parliament and Greenpeace, which defined EU's initiative to ban the use of phthalates as a "small and timid" first step and demanded for a blanket ban on phthalates in plastics. In addition, many different toy distributors or wholesalers have their own internal protocol to restrict the usage of plasticizers. Examples of additional phthalates are stated as follow:

歐洲議會中支持環保的會員及綠色和平對新的計劃甚表歡迎，認為此計劃是歐盟實行全面禁止使用酸酯的一個開始。此外，不同的玩具代理商及分銷商亦有制定本身限制使用酸酯的類別。其他酸酯的化學物如下：

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Phthalates	Abbreviation	CAS Number
Dimethyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二甲酯	(DMP)	131-11-3
Diethyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二乙酯	(DEP)	84-66-2
Dibutyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二丁酯	(DBP)	84-74-2
Benzylbutyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸苯基丁酯	(BBP)	85-68-7
Bis-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二(2-乙基己基)酯	(DEHP)	117-81-7
Diisononyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二異壬酯	(DINP)	28553-12-0
Di-n-octyl phthalate 鄰-苯二甲酸二辛酯	(DNOP)	117-84-0
Diisodecyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二異癸酯	(DIDP)	26761-40-0
Diisobutyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二異丁酯	(DIBP)	84-69-5
Dinonyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二壬酯	(DNP)	84-76-4
Diisooctyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二異辛酯	(DIOP)	27554-26-3
Dipropyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二丙酯	(DPrP)	131-16-8
Dicyclohexyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二環己酯	(DCHP)	84-61-7
Dipentyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二戊酯	(DPP)	131-18-0
Dibenzyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二苯酯	(DBzP)	523-31-9
Diphenyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二苯酯	(DPhP)	84-62-8
Di-n-hexyl phthalate 鄰苯二甲酸二正己酯	(DHP)	84-75-3

SGS-HK can offer the captioned tests to ensure your final product is completely free of phthalate. SGS-HK will further keep you abreast of the new market trend for any substitute of phthalates plasticizer available in the market.

SGS-香港可為閣下的產品進行測試，確保產品絕對不含酸酯。

SGS-香港亦會定期為各客戶更新市場的趨勢，及提供市場上可代替酸酯的產品。

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