

# PLASTICISERS AND FLEXIBLE PVC NEWS BRIEF

October 2013



After four years working for ECPI, Maggie Saykali has moved to a different position within CEFIC as Advocacy Director for the Petrochemistry Cluster (APPE). Since July 2013, Dr. Stéphane Content is the General Manager for ECPI. He can be contacted at [sco@cefic.be](mailto:sco@cefic.be)

## PLASTICISERS & PHTHALATE ESTERS

### **ECHA report on DINP and DIDP published. No further restrictions needed beyond mouthing toys - Safe for use in all current consumer applications**

The European Chemicals Agency has published its final report on the re-evaluation of the restrictions on DINP and DIDP in toys and childcare articles which can be placed in the mouth. It concluded that a "risk cannot be excluded" if the existing restrictions were to be lifted. Very importantly, ECHA evaluated exposure from consumer uses of DINP and DIDP in flexible PVC and "did not identify further uses that would cause a risk. >> [Read More](#)

### **Denmark postpones phthalates ban**

The restrictions announced by the Danish Ministry of Environment in December 2012 against the four low molecular weight phthalates DEHP, DBP, BBP and DIBP in all indoor articles and those with dermal contact has been postponed by two years until December 2015. The main reason is that importers into Denmark of finished articles and in particular electrical and electronic equipment, would not be able to comply with the restriction, given the continued widespread use of low phthalates globally (outside the EU). >> [Read More](#)

### **REACH: Phthalate authorisation submission period closes**

On August 21, ECHA closed the submission window for authorisation applications for the four classified low phthalates. This was the last opportunity for companies involved with the four phthalates in Annex XIV (DEHP, DIBP, DBP, and BBP) to request authorisation for specific uses. Most of the submissions are understood to be for uses of DEHP. ECHA says it will disclose details of the applications when the related public consultations start in mid-November. The sunset date for the applications not covered by an authorisation, other than those exempted, is 21 February 2015.

### **EPA withdraws proposed rules on phthalates**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently withdrew two draft rules, including one that would have designated BPA, certain phthalates and a flame retardant as "chemicals of concern". They had been under review at the Office of Management and Budget's since they were submitted in 2010. The other rule would have amended existing regulation making publicly available any health and safety data submitted to EPA on pre-market chemicals. These data will continue to be deemed as confidential business information.

## EVENTS

### Media Field Trip - “A day in the life of a plasticiser”

The European Council for Plasticisers and Intermediates (ECPI) has recently organised an information session and field trip with journalists from several countries in order to provide an update on the latest technical, policy and scientific developments related to flexible PVC applications, plasticisers and phthalates. Participants had the opportunity to visit SolVin and Sioen Apparel where they learned how plasticisers and some of its applications in flexible PVC are produced and recycled.



### Plasticisers Conference 2013

Take a look at the [preliminary programme](#) of the 2013 Plasticisers conference. Join ECPI and many industry leaders to discuss the future of plasticisers in Europe. Registration is open.



## PRESS REVIEW

### Forbes: NRDC champions shoddy journalism on endocrine active chemicals

Jon Entine attempts to bring some common sense into science reporting following a story on the presence of certain chemicals in our bodies. [>> Read the full article](#)

Nature blogs: The presence of a chemical is not the same as presence of risk

Dr. Schwarcz, chemistry professor and Director of McGill University's Office for Science and Society, takes a bold look to campaigns asking to “phase out potentially toxic products.” [>> Read the full article](#)

The Guardian: Does the Royal College pregnancy report stand up?

The Guardian criticises a recent report on chemical exposure and pregnancy for being too alarmist and unhelpful. [>> Read the full article](#)

BBC: Why everyone must understand science

A look at why it is important to understand science: “The less people know the more likely they are to be manipulated.” [>> Read the full article](#)

## WHAT'S NEW ONLINE

### Video Animation

What are phthalates? How are they made? Are they safe? Answers to all this questions and more can be found on ECPI's new [video animation](#)



### Improved look – New functionalities

[www.plasticisers.org](http://www.plasticisers.org) has gone through a small revamp to improve the way the expanding content is displayed on its homepage. Visitors have now the opportunity to submit their question under the “ask the expert” section. There is also a new module featuring worth-reading press articles from

### **French website**

To help inform the debate in France on the health effects and benefits of chemicals including plasticisers ECPI has now created a web site in French related to the use of plasticisers and PVC. Visit [www.lesplastifiants.fr](http://www.lesplastifiants.fr) and follow us on Twitter [@lesplastifiants](https://twitter.com/lesplastifiants)



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