

Updates to SVHC Candidate List under REACH

On 7 July 2017, the European Chemical Agency (ECHA) introduced one new Substance of Very High Concern (SVHC) to the Candidate List, bringing the total number of entries on the list to 174. Meanwhile, the properties of another existing SVHC substance have also been updated.

The new member included in the SVHC Candidate List is Perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid and its salts (PFHxS, Fig. 1). PFHxS is in fact the first perfluorinated sulphonic acid being identified as a SVHC on the list because of its very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) properties. In addition, PFHxS is a known by-product during the synthesis of heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulphonic acid (PFOS, Fig. 2). Given the similarity in structure, PFHxS could be used as an alternative for PFOS.

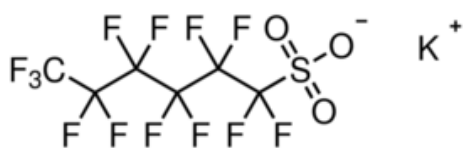


Fig. 1 Structure of perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid

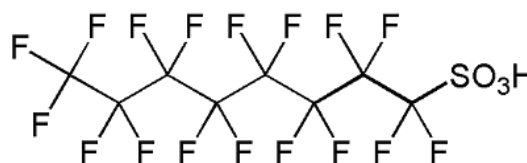


Fig. 2 Structure of heptadecafluorooctane-1-sulphonic acid

Properties of existing five SVHCs, Bisphenol A (BPA), Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), Dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP) were updated due to their endocrine disrupting properties, which have an equivalent level of concern (EQC) causing probable threats to human health. BPA has been included in the SVHC candidate list since January 2017 based on its classification in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008.

Below is a summary of the two SVHCs:

Substance	CAS No.	Classification	Usage
Perfluorohexane-1-sulphonic acid (PFHxS)	355-46-4	vPvB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ingredients in fire extinguishers ● Surfactants ● Synthesis of fluoropolymers ● Water and stain protective coatings for carpets and textiles
Bisphenol A (BPA)	80-05-7	EQC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Manufacture of polycarbonate plastic products including drinking bottles & toys ● Use in epoxy resin hardeners, adhesives and encapsulants

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