

EU Toy Directive Has Been Amended with Formaldehyde Added to The Requirements

On 2019-11-19, EU Directive 2019/1929 was published, amending Appendix C to Annex II to Directive 2009/48/EC, for the purpose of adopting specific limit values for chemicals used in certain toys. The new requirements now include the limit values for formaldehyde used in toys intended for use by children under 36 months or in other toys intended to be placed in the mouth.

All Member States shall adopt and publish, by 2021-05-20 at the latest, the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall then apply those provisions from 2021-05-21.

Limits and test methods are as following:

Chemical	Material	Limit	Method
Formaldehyde CAS: 50-00-0	polymeric	1.5 mg/l (Migration)	EN 71-10:2005, EN71-11:2005
	resin-bonded wood	0.1 ml/m ³ (Emission)	EN 717-1:2004
	textile	30 mg/kg	EN ISO 14184-1:2011
	leather	30 mg/kg	EN ISO 17226-1:2008
	paper	30 mg/kg	EN 645:1993, EN 1541:2001
	water-based	10 mg/kg	EDQM

Formaldehyde (CAS number 50-00-0) has already been classified as carcinogenic category 1B under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, and therefore it is logical to control also Formaldehyde in the Toy Directive -- as now amended by (EU) 2019/1929.

Formaldehyde was found in the following toy materials:

- **Polymeric:** Formaldehyde is used as a monomer for making polymeric materials. Polymer materials are commonly used in toys. As a result, children may ingest formaldehyde when toys that come in contact with the mouth and contain polymer materials. Migration limits are determined based on the Daily Allowable Intake (TDI) published by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- **Resin-bonded wood:** Particleboard, medium-density fiberboard (MDF), plywood, phenolic resin (PF), and melamine formaldehyde (MF) products often contain formaldehyde. This imposed limit reduces the risk of irritation and cancer.
- **Paper, textiles and leather:** Formaldehyde may be used in the manufacturing process. Limiting formaldehyde in such materials can prevent allergic contact dermatitis in children or sensitive individuals.
- **Water-based:** Formaldehyde can be used as a preservative in water-based toy materials, such as bubble water, inks, water-based pigments, and dry materials that need to be mixed with water before use.

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