



EU News

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EUROPEAN CHEMICALS AGENCY

REACH

- **COVID-19: Recommendations for chlorine released from active substances**

Source: ECHA

To help companies and national authorities ensure that disinfectants authorised under derogations of the Biocidal Products Regulation (Article 55 (1)) can be used effectively and safely, ECHA has made recommendations in terms of compositional requirements for active chlorine released from:

- sodium hypochlorite;
- hydrogen peroxide;
- peracetic acid.

Access ECHA's recommended compositional requirements here:

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/28801697/recommended_requirements_chlorine_based_active_substances_en.pdf/

Context:

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, ECHA recognises the need to ensure adequate supply of active substances for use in biocidal products for disinfection purposes.

Competent Authorities of Member States may use Article 55(1) of the Biocidal Products Regulation to permit the placing on the market and use of biocidal products under derogation in particular from the technical equivalence requirement in Article 19(1)(c) of the BPR. Several Member States have notified derogations for biocides including hydrogen peroxide and active chlorine released from sodium

hypochlorite and from sodium chloride by electrolysis. An overview of the notified derogations can be found [here](#).

Biocides

- **Consultation launched for ethylene oxide as potential candidate for substitution**

Source: ECHA

ECHA has launched a consultation for ethylene oxide as a new potential candidate for substitution under the Biocidal Products Regulation. The deadline to comment is 8 June 2020.

More information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/public-consultation-on-potential-candidates-for-substitution>

CLP

- **New intention to harmonise classification and labelling for magnesium metaborate**

Source: ECHA

A new intention has been received for **magnesium metaborate** (EC 237-235-5, CAS 13703-82-7).

More information:

<https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-clh-intentions-until-outcome>

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

COVID-19

- **COVID-19: EU Chemicals Strategy and other EU initiatives delayed**

Source: *Euractiv.com*

The European Commission is reviewing its 2020 work programme in light of the coronavirus crisis. While climate policies remain broadly on track, other initiatives under the European Green Deal are being delayed because they are considered “less essential”. Ahead of the expected publication on 29 April of the new work programme is expected to be published on 29 April, a recently leaked document indicates several relevant initiatives are likely to be affected:

- **Chemicals strategy for sustainability** (non-legislative, Q3 2020, possibly delayed): This is considered a “key element of the Commission’s ambition to tackle all sources of pollution,” the document states. “Work is on track but further delay would not be detrimental,” it adds.
- **Renovation wave** (non-legislative, Q3 2020, maintained); “The renovation wave could be a key element of any post-COVID recovery plan because of its benefits for stimulating economic activity,” the document states, suggesting the timing will be maintained.
- **Empowering the consumer for the green transition** (legislative, Q4 2020, delayed to 2021): “This initiative is an important element of the Circular Economy package whose technical work is on track. However, this initiative on empowering consumers could be delayed to 2021 without undue detriment and might be packaged with circular economy initiatives on sustainable products,” the document states.

The European Green Deal is scheduled to be discussed by Members of the European Parliament and Frans Timmermans, Vice-President of the European Commission, during the [meeting of the Environment Committee on 21 April 2020](#).

Read the article: <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/leaked-full-list-of-delayed-european-green-deal-initiatives/>

WATER

- **JRC Report: Microbiological parameters under the Drinking Water Directive**

Source: Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

On 15 April 2020 the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission published a technical report providing an overview on the current knowledge of two microbiological parameters: somatic coliphages and Clostridium perfringens.

The report also illustrates methods for their detection in water and finally provides a list of recommendations in order to elucidate the role of these two parameters for drinking water quality management.

The report states that despite the efforts made to provide safe water, contamination of the treatment chain by microorganisms and chemicals can occur (pollution of water is often linked to pollution of water faecal or non-faecal pollution). Certain microorganisms can potentially be pathogens. They are numerous and diverse as they include bacteria, viruses, protozoa and helminths. Some of them can resist to treatment (e.g. chlorine treatment) and then persist into the water supplies over one month causing a threat to the consumer.

Read the full report here:

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2795349d-7f8c-11ea-aea8-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

ENDOCRINE DISRUPTORS

- **JRC: Regulating endocrine disrupting chemicals – feedback on public consultation**

Source: Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission has compiled the results of three recent surveys aimed at gaining the views and experiences of citizens, stakeholders and companies related to endocrine disruptors. The findings will contribute to the Commission's assessment of the EU chemicals legislation in the context of a Fitness Check.

The main aims of the Fitness Check are to assess whether the EU chemicals legislation is consistent and effective in protecting human health and the environment by minimising exposure to endocrine disruptors. Additional aims are to assess the efficiency, societal relevance and EU added-value of the legislation, and could potentially lead to new rules or the revision of existing EU legislation.

Next steps:

A synopsis report will detail the consultation activities and accompany a Staff Working Document at the end of the process. Following an independent review of these outputs by the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board, it is foreseen that the Fitness Check will be finalised in the Summer. The findings of the Fitness Check will inform the Commission's policy initiatives under the EU Green Deal.

Access the information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-update/regulating-endocrine-disrupting-chemicals>

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Energy Efficiency

- **EU Commission urged to review European renovation wave within COVID-19 context**

Source: Euractiv

The European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy recently adopted a draft report on maximising the energy efficiency potential of the EU building stock.

The own-initiative and non-legislative report (2020/0000(INI)) was drafted by rapporteur Ciarán Cuffe MEP in reaction to the European Green Deal and the building renovation it announced. The promised renovation wave should now be seen in a different context following the COVID-19 outbreak and brought under the post-pandemic recovery plan currently being drawn up at EU level, according to the MEP.

The report “underlines the importance of the energy efficiency first principle in decarbonizing heating and cooling, electrification of residual demand through renewable energy combined with heat pumps or efficient district heating systems, as well as in load management and flexibility; underlines the need to plan ‘integrated renovation programmes’ in order to achieve synergies.”

Read the full article

<https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy/news/ex-dublin-mayor-pushes-neighbourhood-approach-to-building-renovation/>

Read the European Parliament’s report:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/ITRE-PR-648631_EN.pdf

STAKEHOLDERS

SUSTAINABILITY

- **Advocacy: Industry launches new website outlining the contributions of chlorine to the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

Source: EuroChlor.org

The World Chlorine Council (WCC), whose Secretariat is managed by Euro Chlor until the end of 2020, has launched a website that lists the contributions that chlor-alkali can make to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals. The website lists the following contributions chlorine can make to sustainability.

Find the website here: <https://worldchlorine.org/sustainability/>

COVID-19:

- **Free Webinar on COVID-19 derogations under the Biocidal Products Regulation**

Source: Chemical Watch

In this webinar, experts from the European Commission’s DG Sante, Echa, the French ecology ministry and Cefic’s European Biocidal Products Forum will give

updates, reasoning and overviews of BPR-related emergency measures relating to the coronavirus pandemic.

Specifically, the webinar will explore the use of emergency derogations under Article 55 of the BPR to help ensure the availability of disinfectants to combat Covid-19. It will also cover some of the biggest challenges facing the biocides supply chain, and take a closer look at some of the derogation measures that the French competent authority has adopted.

Register here: <https://events.chemicalwatch.com/106995/covid-19-related-derogations-under-the-biocidal-products-regulation-29-april-2020>

- **Will the Coronavirus affect the swimming pool market?**

Source: Euro Spa Pool News

In a light-hearted article addressed to its subscribers, partners and friends, *Euro Spa Pool News* calls upon its readers to join it in looking think about how the swimming pool and wellness sector is going to make a come-back after the testing times caused by the outbreak of COVID-19.

Read the article here:

https://www.europapoolnews.com/actualites_piscines_spas-en/64893-coronavirus,affect,swimming,pool,market.htm

- **EU Chemicals Industry Outlines Trade and Supply Chain Needs to Tackle COVID-19**

Source: Cefic.org

The European Chemicals Industry, represented by Cefic, has sent a letter to all Trade Ministers of the EU Member States with a set of recommendations to help manufacturers meet the exponential rise in demand for medicines and medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the letter, the chemicals industry calls on EU Member States and the European Commission to:

- Refrain from imposing export and import restrictions or other barriers (e.g. stockpiling requirements) that could disrupt global supply chains
- Engage with trading partners (e.g. US, India, China, Malaysia, Russia) to ensure all relevant parties refrain from such restrictions.
- Ask all countries to facilitate trade by eliminating tariffs on medicines and medical and protective equipment in an unbureaucratic and comprehensive way, to provide enhanced flexibility through customs authorities accepting electronic documents, and to encourage countries to work together to update the WTO pharmaceutical zero-for-zero initiative and extend it to all pharmaceutical and medical goods.
- Apply EU Member States' guidance for importation of clinical products in relation to the required documentation in a flexible manner at the border.
- Avoid listing intermediate and final products of the healthcare sector and related supplying industries (e.g. medicines, textiles, intermediate chemicals, medical and protective equipment) in the retaliatory or rebalancing measures the EU wishes to engage in in response to trade disputes with third countries.
- Enhance further investments in crucial industrial sectors in Europe, linking to the framework of the new EU Industrial Strategy by fostering EU innovation and production and ensuring a holistic approach with more sector specific policies to be announced later this year.

Read the letter here: <https://cefic.org/app/uploads/2020/04/Trade-Ministers-Letter-v15-April-2020-002.pdf>