



# HONGCAI TESTING

Consumer products

HCT-202205-01

## REACH Annex XVII proposes to add formaldehyde releasing substances restriction

On May 2, 2022, the World Trade Organization (WTO) issued Circular G/TBT/N/EU/888, proposal by the European Commission to amend Annex XVII of (EC) No 1907/2006, adding new restriction on formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasing substances. The draft will be open for 60 days of public consultation, with a recommended adoption date is the last quarter of 2022 and intended to enter into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

The restriction on formaldehyde and formaldehyde-releasing substances in the draft circular are as follows:

Substance	Proposal conditions of restriction
'xx. Formaldehyde CAS No 50-00-0 EC No 200-001-8 and formaldehyde releasing substances	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shall not be placed on the market in articles, after [OP, please insert the date: 36 months after the date of entry into force of this amending Regulation] where formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing substances have been intentionally added during their production, if, under the test conditions specified in Appendix [X], the concentration of formaldehyde released from those articles exceeds:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0,062 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for wood-based articles and furniture;</li> <li>0,08 mg/m<sup>3</sup> for articles other than wood-based articles and furniture.</li> </ol>                             The first subparagraph shall not apply to:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>articles that are only for outdoor use under reasonably foreseeable conditions;</li> <li>articles exclusively for industrial or professional use unless formaldehyde released from them leads to exposure of the general public under foreseeable conditions of use;</li> <li>articles within the scope of entry 72 of this Annex;</li> <li>articles that are biocidal products within the scope of Regulation (EU) 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council*;</li> <li>devices within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2017/745;</li> <li>personal protective equipment within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2016/425;</li> <li>articles intended to come into contact directly or indirectly with food within the scope of Regulation (EC) No 1935/2004;</li> <li>second-hand articles.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Shall not be placed on the market in road EN 2 EN vehicles after [OP, please insert the date: 48 months after the date of entry into force</li> </ol>



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of this amending Regulation] where formaldehyde or formaldehyde releasing substances have been intentionally added during their production, if, under the test conditions specified in Appendix [X], the concentration of formaldehyde in the interior of those vehicles exceeds 0,062 mg/m<sup>3</sup> .

The first subparagraph shall not apply to:

- (a) road vehicles exclusively for industrial or professional use unless the concentration of formaldehyde in the interior of those vehicles leads to exposure of the general public under foreseeable conditions of use;
- (b) second-hand vehicles.'

\* Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2012 concerning the making available on the market and use of biocidal products (OJ L 167, 27.6.2012, p. 1).';

Formaldehyde is a highly reactive gas at ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure conditions. It is classified in Part 3 of Annex VI to Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>2</sup> as carcinogen category 1B, mutagen category 2, acute toxicant category 3, skin corrosive category 1B and skin sensitiser category 1.

Formaldehyde is a high production volume chemical with a wide array of uses. 98 % of the formaldehyde manufactured or imported in the Union is used as a chemical intermediate in the production of formaldehyde-based resins, thermoplastics and other chemicals, which are further used in a broad range of applications. Formaldehyde-based resins are used in the production of a wide variety of articles, which, as a result, may release formaldehyde. The primary use of formaldehyde-based resins is in the manufacturing of wood-based panels, where they act as a bonding agent for wood particles. Such resins are also used in the production of other wood-based products like furniture and flooring, and for wallpapers, foams, parts for vehicles and aeroplanes, textile and leather products.

The draft also stipulates a test method for the amount of formaldehyde released. The object of restriction of this draft circular is article. Once the restriction is formally implemented, it will have an impact on many enterprises.

Original link : [https://members.wto.org/crattachments/2022/TBT/EEC/22\\_3131\\_01\\_e.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crattachments/2022/TBT/EEC/22_3131_01_e.pdf)



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## HCT SOLUTION :

The substance has a wide range of uses, relevant enterprises should continue to track the latest developments of the draft. With the rapid development of the consumer goods industry, consumers pay more attention to the health problems caused by products. In recent years, the global attention to formaldehyde emission has gradually increased, and the range of controlled products has expanded from wood products to almost all goods. Therefore, relevant enterprises need to timely understand the restriction requirements of formaldehyde emission at national and international and take countermeasures as soon as possible. HCT has a wide range of testing fields and convenient service channels, which can help enterprises evaluate the special chemicals regulated in products and make your products meet the corresponding national and international organization standards.

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