



The EU proposes listing TBPH under the Stockholm Convention

On April 30, 2026, the Official Journal of the European Union formally published Decision (EU) 2026/878. This Decision stipulates that the European Union, acting on behalf of its Member States, will submit a proposal to the Secretariat of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, recommending the inclusion of Bis(2-ethylhexyl) tetrabromophthalate (TBPH) in Annex A (List of Elimination) of the Convention. This signifies that TBPH is poised to become one of the next persistent organic pollutants (POPs) targeted for global elimination. The following is a comparison of the differences between the revised draft and current requirements regarding the list of exempted products:

➤ **Background:**

TBPH is a brominated flame retardant primarily used in plastic and rubber products, wires and cables, electronic and electrical equipment enclosures, polyurethane foams, automotive components, and similar applications. In accordance with Article 57(e)(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, the European Union has identified it as a Substance of Very High Concern due to its extreme persistence and bioaccumulative properties. Existing scientific data indicate that TBPH is also toxic and capable of long-range transport, as the substance has been detected in remote regions. Consequently, TBPH meets the criteria set forth in Annex D of the Convention and should be designated as a persistent organic pollutant.

➤ **Key Scheduled Milestones for the Inclusion of TBPH in Appendix A of the Convention:**

- ◆ April 2026: EU Decision (EU) 2026/878 officially enters into force, and the proposal has been submitted to the Convention Secretariat.
- ◆ October 2026: The Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (POPRC) will begin reviewing the nomination dossier for TBPH.
- ◆ 2029: The final decision on whether to formally list TBPH in Annex A is expected to be made at the earliest at the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Stockholm Convention.

Original Link: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202600878

HCT SOLUTION:

Currently, this proposal remains in the review phase under international conventions; consequently, TBPH has not yet directly triggered the prohibition or restriction requirements of the EU POPs Regulation. However, given that it has previously been included in the REACH SVHC list, it is recommended that relevant enterprises proactively audit their supply chains, closely monitor subsequent convention reviews and developments regarding the transposition of the EU POPs Regulation, and prepare contingency plans for substance substitution in advance.

