

EU Proposed To Tighten Up Chromium VI Migration Limit In Scrapped-off Material

On 4 September, 2017, the European Commission proposed to revise the migration limit of Chromium VI under the EU Toy Safety Directive from 0.2mg/kg to 0.053mg/kg for Category III material used in toys, such as polymers, wood, textiles, paint coating, etc. Chromium VI migration limit for Category I and Category II materials shall remain unchanged. It is expected that the draft directive will be **adopted in the first quarter of 2018** and **come into force 18 months after publication in the EU Official Journal**.

Chromium VI is restricted under the EU Toy Safety Directive due to its toxicity and exposure to children. The final opinion of the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks (SCHER) on the tolerable daily intake limit of Chromium VI published in 2015 has updated the limit value for category III material to 0.0094 mg/kg. The Chromium VI migration limit for category III material is then proposed as a response.

Here below is a summary of the migration limits for toxic elements under the EU Toy Safety Directive.

Toxic elements (mg/kg)	Category I: Dry, brittle, powder-like or pliable material	Category II: Liquid or sticky material	Category III: Scrapped-off material
Aluminum	5,625	1,406	70,000
Antimony	45	11.3	560
Arsenic	3.8	0.9	47
Barium	1,500	375	18,750
Boron	1,200	300	15,000
Cadmium	1.3	0.3	17
Chromium III	37.5	9.4	460
Chromium VI – Proposed	0.02	0.005	0.053
Cobalt	10.5	2.6	130
Copper	622.5	156	7,700
Lead *	2.0	0.5	23
Manganese	1,200	300	15,000
Mercury	7.5	1.9	94
Nickel	75	18.8	930
Selenium	37.5	9.4	460
Strontium	4,500	1,125	56,000
Tin	15,000	3,750	180,000
Organic Tin	0.9	0.2	12
Zinc	3,750	938	46,000

*Effective on 28 October, 2018

In order to achieve a much lower limit value for chromium VI in scrapped-off toy material, a new test method is being reviewed by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) to allow reliable measurement of concentration value down to 0.0025mg/kg.

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