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CDX supports EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation

The recast of the EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 has been implemented in CDX as a regulation enabling users to understand if, and how they are exposed. The recast regulation entered into force on the 15th July 2019 and replaces the previous EU POPs Regulation (EC) No 850/2004.

What is the POPs Regulation?

The EU POPs Regulation implements the worldwide Stockholm Convention and Aarhus Protocol and provides for the EU itself via the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to identify and propose new POPs to be regulated. POPs are substances that do not degrade in the environment, instead bioaccumulating in living organisms via the food web to present risk to human health and the environment in general. Sources of POPs can be pesticides used in agriculture; industrial chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls which were widely used in electronic equipment in components such as capacitors and transformers, and many other applications; and as unintentional by-products formed during industrial processes, or degradation or combustion (e.g. dioxins and furans).

What does the POPs Regulation do?

The regulation aims to protect human health and the environment by:

- prohibiting or severely restricting the production, placing on the market and use of POPs;
- minimizing the environmental release of POPs that are formed as industrial by-products;
- make sure that stockpiles of POPs are safely managed; and
- ensure the environmentally sound disposal of waste consisting of or contaminated by POPs.

The POPs Regulation contains four Annexes of substances:

- Annex I: POPs for which manufacture, placing on the market or use are prohibited
- Annex II: POPs for which manufacture, placing on the market or use are severely restricted
- Annex III: POPs that are formed as unintentional by-products of industrial processes and are subject to release reduction measures
- Annex IV: POPs subject to specific waste management measures, e.g. permitted concentrations of POPs in waste

Implementation of POPs Regulation in CDX

In the CDX implementation, for any substance in scope of the POPs Regulation where they are contained in a datasheet for a material or part, the user can see:

- which Annex(s) that substance belongs;
- details of any exemptions to prohibitions or
- restrictions; and
- details of any thresholds applicable to that substance.

Value added to CDX Users

The prohibition or restriction of POPs being placed on the market (substances listed in Annex I or II) are of direct relevance to CDX users where they are placing materials or products on the market in the EU. Gathering data on your product portfolio in CDX, and then assessing exposure to the EU POPs Regulation in CDX, enables users to quickly check their compliance status, taking mitigatory action where necessary.

Whilst it is true that many industry lists (also implemented in CDX) will incorporate substances restricted or prohibited by the EU POPs Regulation (e.g. GADSL, IEC 62474, AD-DSL), not all CDX users have adopted those industry lists, or your industry not yet have such a list. Even for users that are using those lists there is a time lag with such industry lists being updated usually with only one major update per year. Checking compliance with the EU POPs Regulation in CDX enables early warning of changes to the EU POPs Regulation that could impact your product portfolio.

Workflow Management: Using the Inbox & Outbox in CDX, you can forward Material Data Sheets (MDSs) to your customers and suppliers quickly and transparently. You can initiate external MDS enquiries with the e-mail process. CDX supports integration into your ERP/PLM system using Web Services.

Register in CDX today for free, and convince yourself: https://www.cdxsystem.com/cdx

For further information please contact the CDX team: cdx-info@dxc.com.