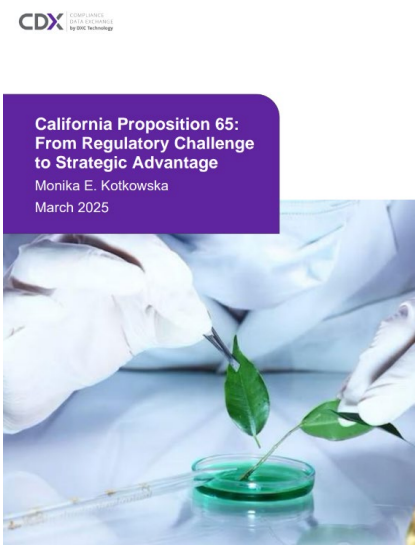
Dear CDX Newsletter Subscriber,

At CDX, we are more than just a software solution — we are your dedicated partners in navigating the complex regulatory landscape. We understand that staying up to date with evolving regulations can be a difficult challenge, which is why we work hard to provide exceptional support to our customers.

Our commitment to your success goes well beyond system enhancements. We regularly host informative webinars with participation from industry experts, create comprehensive whitepapers and factsheets, and deliver timely regulatory updates to ensure you stay informed and prepared. Our goal is to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to confidently address any regulatory challenges that may arise.

As active members of organizations such as IAEG, AEM, AIAG, and IPC, we ensure that CDX remains at the forefront of industry requirements. We continuously update essential tools like GADSL, AD-DSL, HEDSL and RISL to reflect the latest standards. Recently, we have updated GADSL and the IAEG PFAS List, demonstrating our commitment to meeting industry's needs.

Additionally, a new whitepaper titled "California Proposition 65: From Regulatory Challenge to Strategic Advantage" has been released to help you understand the new requirements effective from January 1, 2025 (Link).



As we conclude Q1 2025, we are pleased to present a variety of resources to keep you informed and compliant with the latest regulatory updates. We trust that you will find these insights both valuable and engaging.

If you find the information useful or have any feedback, please feel free to share your thoughts at cdx-info@dxc.com.

Thank you,

CDX Team

Agenda

North America

United States

Trump Administration's Regulatory Freeze

In January 2025, US President Trump issued a so-called freeze memorandum (Link), ordering a temporary freeze of all new federal regulations or those that have not yet come into force, subjecting them to review by the new government. If a rule has already been published but has not yet come into force, it will be postponed for 60 days. Consequently, effective dates of four chemicals regulations published between November 29 and December 31, 2024 have been delayed until March 21, 2025; including, for example, a rule under TSCA on Trichlorethylene (TCE) (Link). Currently the rule on TCE is under review and the effectiveness has been postponed for another 90 days until June 20, 2025.

PFAS: Continued Postponement and Public Comment Periods for PFAS Rules

In February 2025, the EPA continued to postpone the effectiveness of certain PFAS rules and reopened commenting periods (ending on April 16 and April 20, 2025) for such rules, including

- Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) (FRL-12451-01-OW) (Link)
- Draft National Recommended Ambient Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health for Perfluorooctanoic Acid, Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid, and Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid (12023-01-OW) (Link)

PFAS: EPA Delays and Updates to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) for PFAS

The Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), a public databased maintained by the EPA, requiring companies across a wide range of industries that manufacture, process, or otherwise use more than a certain amount of a listed chemical to report to the TRI, is also undergoing some changes with respect to PFAS (LINK). Due to the freeze memorandum, the EPA delayed its effective date by 60 days until March 21, 2025.

In early January 2025, the EPA published a final rule, adding 9 PFAS to the TRI. These nine PFAS chemicals will have to be reported for the first time for the year 2025, with a reporting deadline of July 1, 2026.

PFAS: EPA Proposes Clarification on PFAS Supplier Notification Requirements

Also in January 2025, the EPA proposed to clarify the timeframe for when companies must first notify a customer that one of its mixtures or trade name products contains a per- or polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) listed on the TRI. Under National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) certain PFAS are automatically added to the TRI beginning January 1 following specified activities involving the PFAS in the preceding year. As industry stakeholder were uncertain whether the supplier notification requirements for such PFAS begin on Jan. 1, when the PFAS is added to the statutory TRI chemical list or upon EPA completing a rulemaking to include the added PFAS in the Code of Federal Regulations, the EPA is proposing to clarify with this new rule that the supplier notification requirement for these PFAS start immediately when they are added to the TRI (Jan. 1) by explicitly defining PFAS added to the TRI by the NDAA as TRI chemicals (LINK). The (extended) commenting period ended on March 24, 2025.

TSCA: Congressional Review Act Resolution Targets EPA's PBT Chemical Regulations

On February 12, 2025, a resolution was introduced under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to repeal the EPA's final rule on decabromodiphenyl ether (decaBDE) and phenol, isopropylated

phosphate (3:1) (PIP 3:1). The targeted rule, "Revision to the Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)" was published on November 19, 2024.

If passed by Congress and signed by President Trump, this resolution would completely overturn the EPA's regulations for these two chemicals, which established a 0.1% limit for unintentionally added substances, extended compliance deadlines, and modified exclusions for certain uses.

The resolution is part of broader efforts to review regulations issued during the final months of the Biden Administration. Congress has until approximately May 8, 2025, to use the CRA's expedited procedures, though competing priorities and limited congressional calendar time may impact its chances of passage.

Companies using decaBDE or PIP (3:1) in products, particularly in electronics, automotive, and manufacturing sectors, should monitor this development closely as it could significantly alter compliance requirements established by the November 2024 rule (Link).

United States, New Mexico

PFAS: New Mexico Becomes Third State to Ban Intentionally Added PFAS in Products

New Mexico legislators have approved legislation banning certain PFAS in consumer products. The Bill has been signed by the Governor on April 8, 2025. The restrictions will apply gradually from January 1, 2027, when the first product-groups will be affected, e.g. firefighting foam. Reporting requirements will apply to manufacturers who must then report PFAS-containing products to the state. Information that must be reported includes:

- A brief description of the product;
- The purpose of the PFAS in the product;
- The amount of each PFAS in the product;
- Manufacturer contact information; and
- Any additional information requested by NMED as necessary.

From January 1, 2032 a general ban on PFAS in all products will apply, unless an exemption can be claimed (Link).

United States, California: Adds Bisphenol S (BPS) to Proposition 65 List for Male Reproductive Toxicity

California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has updated the Proposition 65 list, adding Bisphenol S (BPS) due to concerns about male reproductive toxicity. The official listing date was January 3, 2025, although the announcement was made on February 11, 2025 (link). This decision came after the state's expert committee. The Developmental and Reproductive Toxicant Identification Committee (DARTIC) concluded that BPS is clearly shown to cause harm to the male reproductive system.

Key Dates for Businesses and business obligations:

- **Warning Deadline (Male Reproductive Toxicity):** Businesses must provide warnings for products containing BPS that pose a significant risk of exposure related to male reproductive toxicity starting January 3, 2026.

- **Previous Listing (Female Reproductive Toxicity):** BPS was already added to the Proposition 65 list for female reproductive toxicity effective December 29, 2023. The warning requirement for this specific toxicity took effect on December 29, 2024.

Because there is no official safe harbor level, businesses should be aware that almost any detectable amount of BPS in a product sold in California could be considered a basis for requiring a warning and may lead to enforcement actions. Companies selling products potentially containing BPS in California must evaluate their items and provide "clear and reasonable" warnings if necessary to comply with the law.

BPS is used in several types of consumer products. Common examples include thermal paper, often used for receipts, linings for food cans and packaging, various types of plastics, some medical devices.

Failure to provide the required warnings can result in civil penalties of up to $2,500 per violation, per day.

United States, Maine: DEP Proposes New Rule to Regulate PFAS in Products

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is finalizing its new Chapter 90 rule, which outlines how the state will manage intentionally added PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in products sold in Maine. This rule puts into action the requirements of Maine's law (38 M.R.S. §1614) aimed at reducing potential PFAS contamination and human exposure by phasing out non-essential uses through sales prohibition.

The Chapter 90 rule establishes a process for manufacturers to seek a "currently unavoidable use" (CUU) designation. This designation applies if the use of PFAS is critical for a product essential to health, safety, or the functioning of society, and alternatives are not reasonably available. The rule details how the DEP will implement the law and set expectations for businesses needing to apply for these CUU designations.

Manufacturers whose products receive a CUU designation must still meet notification requirements before continuing sales in Maine beyond the applicable prohibition date. These notifications must include details such as a product description, the specific PFAS used (identified by name and CAS number if possible), the purpose of the PFAS, and an estimate of units sold. Failure to provide the required notice can prevent the product from being legally sold or distributed in Maine.

This regulation applies specifically to new and unused products and their components that contain intentionally added PFAS and are sold, offered for sale, or distributed within Maine, unless specific exemptions apply. It's important for businesses to note that PFAS refers broadly to the class of fluorinated organic chemicals with at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

For more detailed official information from the Maine DEP:

- General Information on PFAS and Maine DEP (webpage)
- Basis Statement and Response to Comments (April 2025)
- Proposed Rule Clean (7 April 2025)
- Chapter 90: Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (7 April 2025)

Canada

PFAS: Canada Takes Significant Step to Regulate PFAS

The Government of Canada has proposed adding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), excluding fluoropolymers, to Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA). This proposal follows the publication of Canada's State of PFAS Report, which concluded that these substances may be harmful to the environment and human health, meeting the criteria under paragraphs 64(a) and (c) of CEPA. The proposed order was published for a 60-day public comment period ending on May 7, 2025. (Link)

It's important to understand that adding PFAS to Schedule 1 does not immediately ban or restrict their use, manufacture, or import. Rather, this classification as "toxic" enables the Government to develop and implement enforceable risk management measures under CEPA to address potential ecological and human health risks associated with these substances. For substances added to Part 2 of Schedule 1, the Government must prioritize pollution prevention actions, which may include prohibitions when warranted.

The government has outlined a two-phase approach to manage PFAS risks. Phase 1 will focus on prohibiting PFAS in firefighting foams, with consultation expected by Fall 2025. Phase 2 will target unnecessary PFAS uses in consumer products where alternatives exist, considering factors such as costs, benefits, and availability of substitutes.

This marks Canada's first regulation of a chemical class rather than individual substances, aiming to prevent "regrettable substitution" where restricted chemicals are replaced with similar harmful alternatives. Fluoropolymers are excluded from this classification and will be assessed separately due to their potentially different risk profiles.

Organizations that manufacture, import, or use PFAS in their operations or along their supply chains should begin preparing for increased regulation as Canada joins other jurisdictions worldwide in taking decisive action to control and phase out these persistent chemicals.

Europe

European Union

Deforestation: FAQ Document Now Available in French and German

Stakeholders involved with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) should note that the official Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been updated and is now available in multiple languages. The third iteration of the FAQ document is now accessible in French and German, alongside the original English version.

The document and its translations can be found on the official EU CIRCABC platform (Link). Users navigating the platform should look for the specific FAQ document entry; the translated versions are typically available for download under a section labelled "File translations" at the end of the document page.

REACH: ECHA Submits REACH Restriction Proposal for Chromium (VI) Substances

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) submitted its restriction proposal for certain chromium (VI) substances under REACH on April 11, 2025. This submission follows the expanded mandate issued by the European Commission on May 8, 2024 (Link).

The restriction proposal targets several chromium (VI) substances, including those specified in entries 16-22 and 28-31 of the REACH Authorisation List, plus additional substances such as barium chromate (EC 233-660-5). The substances expected to be included are

- Chromium trioxide
- Chromic acid
- Twelve additional CrVI compounds, including those listed in entries 16-22 and 28-31 of the REACH Authorisation List
- Barium chromate (EC number 233-660-5) over concerns of “regrettable substitution”

The final list of substances may differ from this preliminary assessment.

Within 30 days of submission, ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (SEAC) will assess whether the restriction dossier meets REACH requirements. If the dossier passes this conformity check, a six-month public consultation will commence, most likely in June 2025.

The restriction proposal may include different restriction options with potential derogations. These derogations may have varying transitional periods based on risk levels associated with specific uses, socio-economic impacts, and alternative availability. If ECHA does not propose a derogation for a particular use, affected companies must provide risk and socio-economic justifications during the consultation period.

This public consultation represents the primary opportunity for industry stakeholders to influence the final restriction. Companies using chromium (VI) substances should prepare by assessing their supply chains, planning consultation participation, and developing evidence-based justifications for uses where derogations may be necessary.

The submission represents the culmination of a regulatory process that began with the European Commission's initial mandate in September 2023. Companies that utilize chromium (VI) substances should monitor ECHA's website for the official publication of the restriction proposal and consultation announcement.

CSRD, CSDDD: EU approved "Stop-the-Clock" Measure

The European Commission has approved important changes to when companies must start reporting on sustainability matters. On April 3, 2025, the Commission adopted the "Stop-the-Clock" measure, which extends the deadlines for two major regulations (Link).

This decision is part of the Commission's February 2025 "Omnibus" package, which aims to make sustainability rules simpler and reduce paperwork for businesses. The approved changes include:

- Large companies that are not listed on stock exchanges will now start reporting in 2028 instead of 2026
- Small and medium-sized listed companies will begin reporting in 2029 instead of 2027
- Due diligence requirements for checking sustainability in supply chains will start in 2028, one year later than originally planned

Companies already required to report under previous rules must still submit their sustainability reports for 2024 on schedule in 2025.

The proposal now needs final approval from the EU Council, with the official text expected to be published by the end of June 2025. This delay gives EU lawmakers more time to work on additional simplifications in the second part of the Omnibus package, which aims to reduce reporting requirements by about 25% while still supporting Europe's climate goals.

PFAS: EU PFAS Restriction Proposal Moves Ahead

The European Union continues advancing its PFAS restriction proposal through ECHA's scientific committees. In March 2025, the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis Committee (SEAC) evaluated PFAS uses in fluorinated gas applications, transport, and energy sectors. RAC reached provisional conclusions for transport and energy applications, while SEAC began preliminary discussions (Link). The committees will continue their assessment in June 2025, focusing on:

- Medical devices (RAC and SEAC)
- Lubricants (RAC and SEAC)
- Transport (SEAC cont.)
- Energy (SEAC cont.)
- Electronics and semiconductors (introductory discussion in RAC).

PoPs: EU Proposes New Limits for Flame Retardants in Recycled Materials

The European Commission published a proposal on February 18, 2025, to revise regulations for polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) under the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation. The proposal targets five PBDE flame retardants: tetraBDE, pentaBDE, hexaBDE, heptaBDE, and decaBDE, which are already listed in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 (Link).

Recent studies have detected these substances, particularly decaBDE, in consumer articles made from recovered plastics. Recognizing the challenges of circular economy principles, the Commission proposes different unintentional trace contaminant (UTC) limit values for recycled materials versus virgin materials. The proposal establishes a general UTC limit of 10 mg/kg for the sum of these PBDEs in mixtures and articles, with higher temporary thresholds for products containing recovered materials.

In a separate but related development, EU authorities have published an important interpretation of what constitutes **"articles that have already been used"** under Article 4(2) of the POPs Regulation (Link). According to this interpretation, an article is considered "**in use**" only when in possession of the final user or when being processed into another product. This means articles in storage by producers, distributors, importers, or retailers would not qualify as "**in use**" - a narrower interpretation than previously understood.

These developments significantly impact on manufacturers and suppliers of recovered plastics, who will need to carefully monitor and control the composition of recycled materials to meet the new UTC threshold limits. The public consultation period for the draft regulation is closed on March 18, 2025.

Battery Regulation: New Guidelines on Removability Requirements

Starting February 18, 2027, manufacturers must ensure portable and light mobility (LMT) batteries can be easily removed and replaced by end users, according to Article 11 of the EU Batteries Regulation (2023/1542).

The European Commission published guidance in January 2025 clarifying limited exemptions to these requirements. Products designed for wet environments and certain medical devices may qualify for exemptions, but manufacturers must provide solid evidence showing that:

- Battery removal by users would create safety risks
- Redesigning the product is not possible with current technology without compromising safety or functionality

These exemptions aren't automatic - manufacturers must document their justification before placing products on the market. Even exempt products must still allow battery replacement by independent professionals. The guidance specifies that battery removal must be possible without damaging the device or battery, and any required tools must be commonly available rather than proprietary (Link to guide).

Companies selling products with built-in batteries in the EU should review their designs now to determine if they comply with these requirements or if they genuinely qualify for exemptions. With the deadline less than two years away, some products may need significant redesign to meet these new standards.

Packaging: ECHA to Identify Harmful Substances in Packaging by September 2026

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has been tasked with identifying Substances of Concern in packaging materials under the new Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). This important study must be completed by September 30, 2026, with a draft report due in March 2026 (Link).

ECHA will examine how these substances affect chemical safety and impact recycling and reuse processes. The agency will create an inventory of chemicals used in packaging production, assess their hazard profiles, and evaluate current waste management practices.

Following ECHA's assessment, the European Commission will consider appropriate measures, potentially including restrictions on substances that pose health or environmental risks. New labeling requirements for packaging are scheduled to take effect in 2030.

This development affects companies across all industries that use packaging materials. Manufacturers should prepare for more stringent data collection requirements covering not just their products but also their packaging materials. The regulation represents a key step in the EU's plan to make all packaging reusable or recyclable by 2030 as part of its circular economy strategy.

RoHS: European Commission Proposes Updates to Key RoHS Lead Exemptions

In early January 2025, the European Commission notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) about three draft Delegated Directives proposing amendments to Annex III of the Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive (2011/65/EU). These drafts address widely used temporary exemptions for lead in specific applications within electrical and electronic equipment (EEE). The public consultation period for these drafts concluded on February 10, 2025.

The purpose of these amendments is to adapt the RoHS exemptions list to scientific and technical progress, as required by the Directive. While RoHS restricts lead to 0.1% by weight in homogeneous materials in EEE, Annex III allows temporary exemptions where substitution is currently scientifically or technically impracticable, or where the reliability of substitutes is not ensured, provided environmental and health protection is not weakened compared to REACH regulations.

The proposed updates cover three main areas:

1. Lead as an Alloying Element in Steel, Aluminum, and Copper (Exemptions 6(a), 6(b), 6(c)) **(Link)**

- **Context:** Existing exemptions allow lead as an alloying element to improve machinability or facilitate the use of recycled materials in steel, aluminum, and copper alloys up to certain concentration limits.
- **Proposal:** The draft directive proposes renewing and restructuring these exemptions. This includes specifying limits, such as up to 0.35% lead in steel for machining (6(a)-I), up to 0.2% in batch hot-dip galvanized steel (6(a)-II), up to 0.4% in aluminum for machining (6(b)-II), up to 0.4% in aluminum from lead-bearing scrap (6(b)-I - limited categories), a new exemption for aluminum casting alloys from scrap up to 0.3% (6(b)-III), and up to 4% lead in copper alloys (6(c)).
- **Proposed Expiry:** According to analyses of the drafts, these revised exemptions (6(a)-I, 6(a)-II, 6(b)-I, 6(b)-II, 6(b)-III, 6(c))are proposed to expire on **December 31, 2026**.

2. Lead in High Melting Temperature (HMT) Solders (Exemption 7(a)) **(Link)**

- **Context:** Exemption 7(a) allows lead in HMT solders (≥85% lead by weight). Evaluations found this broad exemption was sometimes used unnecessarily, although substitutes are not available for all necessary applications requiring high reliability and specific thermal/electrical properties.
- **Proposal:** The draft proposes replacing the single exemption 7(a) with seven more specific sub-entries (7(a)-I through 7(a)-VII). These target distinct applications like internal interconnections, specific component attachments (e.g., ceramic BGAs), and hermetic sealing where HMT lead solder remains technically necessary.
- **Proposed Expiry:** These new, targeted HMT solder exemptions are proposed to expire on **December 31, 2027**.

3. Lead in Glass or Ceramic Components (Exemptions 7(c)-I, 7(c)-II) **(Link)**

- **Context:** Exemptions allow lead in certain glass and ceramic materials (e.g., piezoelectrics, dielectric ceramics in specific capacitors) where it provides essential properties.
- **Proposal:** Technical assessments found substitutes are not available or reliable for many applications. The draft proposes splitting the existing 7(c)-I into more specific entries: 7(c)-V for lead in glass/glass matrix compounds (covering functions like hermetic sealing, specific bonding, resistive materials) and 7(c)-VI for lead in ceramic compounds (like PZT or PTC ceramics). Exemption 7(c)-II (lead in dielectric ceramic capacitors for specific voltages) is proposed for renewal.
- **Proposed Expiry:** The renewed exemption 7(c)-II and the new specific exemptions 7(c)-V and 7(c)-VI are proposed to expire on **December 31, 2027**. The older 7(c)-I is proposed to expire sooner (Dec 31, 2026) to facilitate the transition to the new structure.

Next Steps and Implications:

The European Commission was expected to formally adopt these Delegated Directives around March 2025, with entry into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

Businesses placing EEE on the EU market must assess their reliance on these lead exemptions immediately. Key actions include:

- Identifying which specific new or revised exemption sub-entries cover their applications.
- Evaluating the feasibility of transitioning to lead-free alternatives before the proposed expiry dates.
- Preparing for renewal applications if continued reliance on an exemption is necessary. **Crucially, applications for exemptions expiring December 31, 2026, would need to be submitted 18 months prior, by June 30, 2025**.

Failure to transition away from lead or secure a necessary exemption renewal before expiry would prevent the legal sale of affected products in the EU market.

SVHC: ECHA Expands Candidate List with Five Additions and One Update

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has added five new substances to the Candidate List of substances of very high concern (SVHC) under REACH, bringing the total to 247 entries (Link). These substances are considered harmful to human health or the environment, and companies must manage the risks related to their use. In addition, ECHA updated one existing entry to reflect new concerns.

The five substances added are:

- 6-[(C10-C13)-alkyl-(branched, unsaturated)-2,5-dioxopyrrolidin-1-yl]hexanoic acid (EC 701-118-1; CAS 2156592-54-8), identified as toxic for reproduction.
- O,O,O-triphenyl phosphorothioate (EC 209-909-9; CAS 597-82-0), classified as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT).
- Octamethyltrisiloxane (EC 203-497-4; CAS 107-51-7), identified as very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB).
- Perfluamine (EC 206-420-2; CAS 338-83-0), also identified as vPvB.
- Reaction mass of triphenylthiophosphate and tertiary butylated phenyl derivatives (EC 421-820-9; CAS 192268-65-8), classified as PBT.

ECHA also updated the entry for tris(4-nonylphenyl, branched and linear) phosphite (EC 799-976-5) to include its endocrine disrupting properties for the environment.

Companies that import or produce articles containing any of these substances above 0.1% by weight must notify ECHA within six months from January 21, 2025, if their article contains a Candidate List substance. This notification is required under REACH and helps ensure safe use and communication along the supply chain. Penalties for non-compliance are not specified in the update.

Flame Retardants: ECHA Investigation Identifies PBT Concerns in Brominated Compounds

On December 18, 2024, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published its Investigation Report on aromatic brominated flame retardants (ABFRs), identifying significant environmental and health concerns (Link). The report found that five ABFRs already meet criteria for classification as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic (PBT) or very persistent and very bioaccumulative (vPvB) substances, with over 40 others likely to meet these criteria.

ECHA recommends a group-based regulatory approach targeting all non-polymeric additive ABFRs to prevent regrettable substitution. The automotive and electronics sectors, identified as primary users of these flame retardants, would be most affected by potential restrictions.

While alternatives exist for many applications, transitioning away from ABFRs will require industry innovation and adaptation. The European Commission will use this report to determine whether to request ECHA to prepare a formal restriction dossier, with further proceedings expected in the first half of 2025.

Companies using ABFRs should begin collecting data on their use of these substances and exploring alternatives. Any potential restrictions would likely focus on non-polymeric additive ABFRs rather than polymeric or reactive varieties, which generally pose lower migration risks.

Switzerland

CSRD: Switzerland Delays Sustainability Reporting Rules While Awaiting EU Changes

The Swiss Federal Council has announced it will postpone decisions on aligning its sustainability reporting requirements with European Union standards. This decision comes as the EU considers simplifications to its Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD).

Switzerland will make its final decision after the EU finalizes its approach, but no later than spring 2026. The delay follows the EU's February 26, 2025 "Omnibus" package, which proposes increasing the employee threshold for reporting from 250 to 1,000 employees and extending implementation deadlines (Link).

Previously, Switzerland had planned to expand its sustainability reporting requirements from approximately 200 to over 3,500 companies. With this postponement, Swiss officials can ensure their approach remains aligned with international standards while avoiding unnecessary regulatory burden. Meanwhile, Switzerland continues to advance other sustainability initiatives, including amendments to its climate disclosure rules expected to take effect January 1, 2026.

Companies operating in or exporting to Switzerland should monitor these developments, as they will eventually need to comply with Switzerland's sustainability reporting framework once finalized

Ukraine

REACH: Ukraine Implements REACH-Like Chemical Regulation System

Ukraine has officially implemented its chemical safety regulatory framework with the entry into force of UA-REACH (Technical Regulation "On Safety of Chemical Products") on January 26, 2025 (Link). This marks the completion of Ukraine's chemical regulatory system, which now includes three key components: the Law on Chemical Safety (UA-LCS), UA-CLP (for classification, labeling, and packaging), and UA-REACH.

Registration Requirements and Deadlines

The UA-REACH regulation requires the registration of chemical substances manufactured in or imported into Ukraine in quantities of 1 tonne or more per year. The registration process follows a phased approach with specific deadlines:

- **January 26, 2026**: CMR substances (Category 1A and 1B) at ≥1 t/a and substances very toxic to aquatic organisms at ≥100 t/a
- **October 1, 2026**: Substances at ≥1,000 t/a
- **June 1, 2028**: Substances at 100-1,000 t/a
- **March 1, 2030**: Substances at 1-100 t/a

Pre-Registration Process

Companies have a one-year transitional period for pre-registration, ending January 26, 2026, for substances that were on the market before UA-REACH entered into force. For substances placed on the market after January 26, 2025, pre-registration must occur within six months of their first placement.

Pre-registration information must include:

- Substance identification details (name, CAS number, molecular formula)
- Company information
- Annual tonnage and applicable registration deadline
- Indication of data access for required testing

Options for Non-Ukrainian Companies

Foreign manufacturers and formulators can appoint an Only Representative (OR) located in Ukraine to fulfill their UA-REACH obligations, similar to the EU REACH system. This allows Ukrainian importers to be considered downstream users rather than having to register substances themselves.

Current Status of Implementation

While the legal framework is now in place, several practical aspects remain under development by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources (MEPR). The C&L notification form under UA-CLP was recently published, with the pre-registration form for UA-REACH expected to follow soon.

The implementation timeline has raised some concerns within industry, as companies with certain hazardous substances face a tight deadline that requires full registration by the same date as the pre-registration deadline (January 26, 2026). This differs from how EU REACH was implemented and may create challenges for affected companies.

United Kingdom

Packaging: Extended Producer Responsibility Shifts Waste Management to Businesses

The United Kingdom's *Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024* came into force on 1 January 2025 (Link). These rules shift the responsibility for

managing packaging waste from local governments to businesses that produce or use packaging, aiming to promote sustainable practices. Key requirements for businesses:

- **Registration and Reporting**: Companies placing packaging on the UK market—including brands, importers, distributors, online platforms, and retailers—must register with the Environment Agency (or equivalent bodies in Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland). All producers must collect and report data on packaging materials, such as weight and type (e.g., plastic, glass, aluminum). Larger producers must provide additional details, including whether packaging is for households or businesses.
- **Recyclability Assessments**: Producers must evaluate how recyclable their packaging is using methods approved by the scheme administrator. These assessments must stay up to date if packaging designs or recycling standards change.
- **Recycling Obligations**: Large producers must meet recycling targets by purchasing **Packaging Recovery Notes (PRNs)** or **Packaging Export Recovery Notes (PERNs)**. These certificates are issued by approved recyclers or exporters handling packaging waste.

Businesses can join government-approved **compliance schemes** to manage their obligations. These schemes handle registration, reporting, and meeting recycling targets on behalf of members.

Critical Deadlines

- **1 April 2025**: First reports covering packaging data for 2024.
- **1 October 2025**: First recyclability assessment reports (covering January–June 2025).

Failure to register, report accurately, or meet recycling targets may result in fines. Penalty amounts depend on the severity of the violation but are not specified in the regulation.

Online marketplaces are now treated as producers for goods sold on their platforms. Businesses should review packaging designs, ensure accurate data tracking, and consider joining compliance schemes to streamline obligations.

If you would like to learn more or discuss how our solutions can help your business grow, please contact the CDX Team at: cdx-info@dxc.com.

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