



April 29, 2015

EU – EC Adds Annex XVII Restriction on Lead and Lead-Containing Products Presenting Mouthing Hazard to Children

The European Commission (EC) on 22 April 2015 adopted Regulation 2015/628/EU, adding a restriction to the REACH Regulation's Annex XVII on lead's placement on the EU market and its use in certain products supplied to the general public at concentration levels of 0.05 percent or above by weight and which may, during normal conditions of use, be placed in the mouth by children. Under the new provision, products or accessible parts of them fall within the scope of this restriction if they are smaller than 5 cm in one dimension or have a detachable or protruding part of that size. Exemptions, including a number of temporary ones subject to later review, from the new restriction have also been provided, including certain jewelry articles; keys and locks, including padlocks; musical instruments; the tips of writing instruments; religious articles; and portable zinc-carbon batteries and button cell batteries. The restriction applies only to relevant articles placed on the market after 1 June 2016.

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