Annex to a news alert ECHA/NA/17/10

Helsinki, 28 April 2017

Biocidal Products Committee (BPC) adopted opinions supporting the approval of two active substances as follows:

The adopted opinions concern the approval of the following active substances and their product-types (PTs):

L(+) lactic acid for product-types 2, 3 and 4

L(+) lactic acid is an existing active substance evaluated in product-types 1, 2 3, 4 and 6. The BPC has already adopted an opinion on product-type 1. The products containing L(+) lactic acid are used for the disinfection of surfaces in bathrooms by the general public in product-type 2, for disinfection of cow teats after milking in product-type 3 and for the disinfection of tanks in the brewery industry by professional users in product-type 4.

The evaluating competent authority of the active substance application is Germany.

Propan-1-ol for product-types 1, 2 and 4

Propan-1-ol is an existing active substance. The products containing propan-1-ol are used for hand disinfection by non-professional and professional users in product-type 1, for the disinfection of surfaces, objects, material and equipment in private, public health and industrial areas by non-professional and professional users in product-type 2 and 4 (food and feed area).

The evaluating competent authority of the active substance application is Germany.

The opinions will be available at the following link in the near future:
http://echa.europa.eu/about-us/who-we-are/biocidal-products-committee

Further information about the BPC

The role of BPC in EU regulatory processes

The Biocidal Products Committee prepares the opinions of the Agency related to several processes under the Biocidal Products Regulation. Each EU Member State is entitled to appoint one member to the BPC for a renewable term of three years.

In relation to applications for the approval of new active substances, companies have to apply for approval of an active substance by submitting a dossier. After a validation check, the evaluating competent authority carries out an evaluation within one year.

The result of the evaluation is forwarded to the BPC, which prepares an opinion within 270 days. The opinion serves as a basis for decision-making by the European Commission and the Member States. The approval of an active substance is granted for a defined number of years, not exceeding 10 years.

Substances which were on the market before 14 May 2000 and are evaluated under the biocides review programme in an analogous manner to new active substances, are referred to as

existing active substances.

During the approval process of an active substance, the evaluating competent authority may conclude that the active substance meets the criteria for substitution of Article 10(1) of the BPR and is therefore a potential candidate for substitution. The objective of this provision is to identify substances of particular concern to public health or the environment and to make sure that these substances are phased-out and replaced by more suitable alternatives over time. The criteria for substitution are based on the intrinsic hazardous properties in combination with the use and include, for example, if the substance meets at least one of the exclusion criteria listed in the BPR or if the substance is a respiratory sensitiser.

For substances that are identified by the evaluating competent authority as a potential candidate for substitution, ECHA will initiate a public consultation to allow interested third parties to submit relevant information, including information on available substitutes. Subsequently, in the preparation of its opinion, the BPC reviews the proposed identification of the active substance as a candidate for substitution.

Active substances which are candidates for substitution will not be approved for more than seven years, even in the case of renewal. If the active substance meets one or more exclusion criteria, it will only be approved for five years. When an active substance is identified as a candidate for substitution, products containing that active substance will have to be subject to a comparative assessment at the time of authorisation and will only be authorised if there are no better alternatives.

Further information about BPC is available on the ECHA website at the link below:
https://echa.europa.eu/about-us/who-we-are/biocidal-products-committee