



Case study: microplastics

ECHA Conference – Safer Chemicals

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- Stakeholders engagement: past and future

Intentional use of microplastics



Why is it a concern?

- More and more used
- Wide-spread in the environment
- Small particles are easily ingested
- Very resistant to (bio)-degradation
- Impossible to remove once in the environment



Elements of the proposed restriction



Elements of the proposed restriction

Microplastic definition



Prohibition on 'placing on the market'
uses where MP releases to the environment are inevitable



Derogated uses
uses with no MP release; already regulated; uses at industrial site

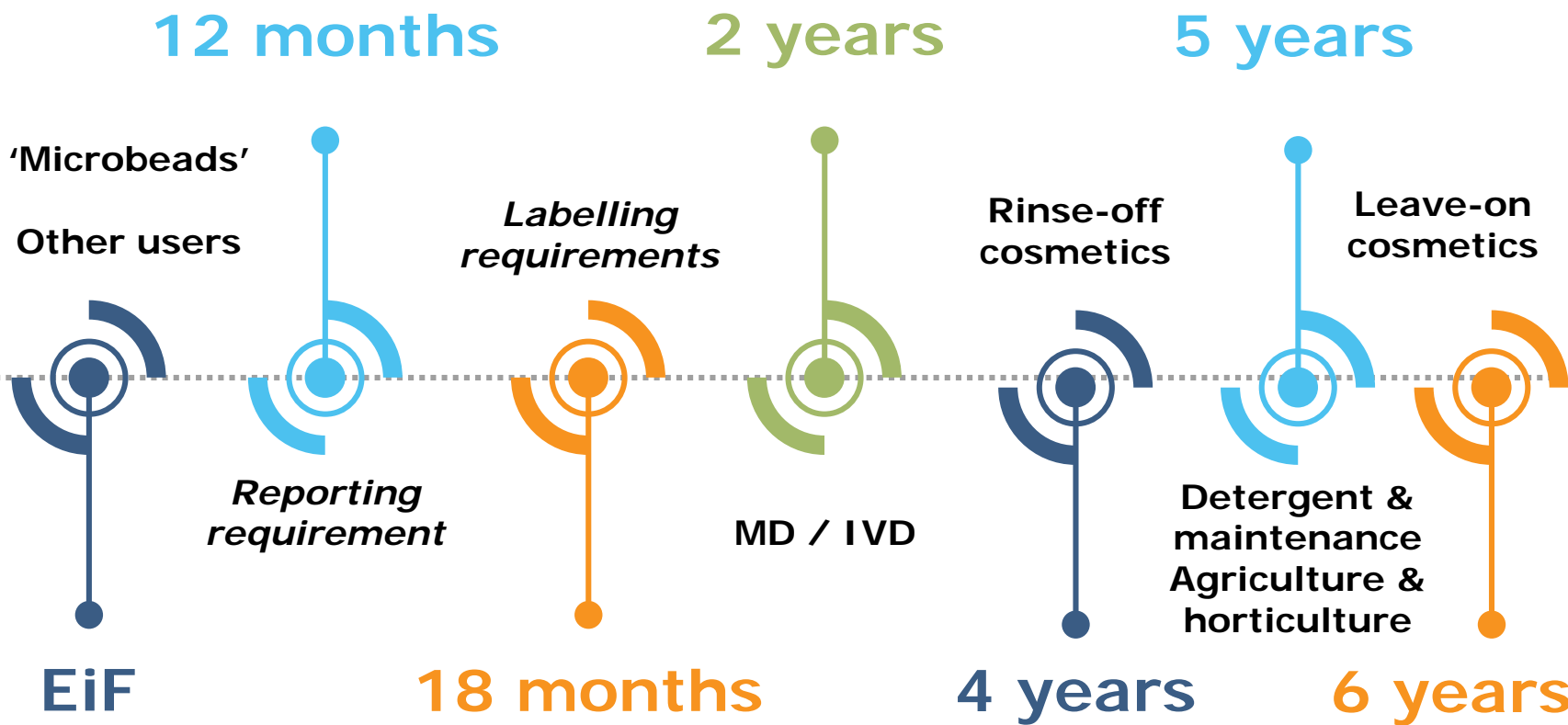


Improved instructions for use
uses where MP release can be minimised



Mandatory 'reporting'
identity, description of use (function), tonnage, releases

Phased implementation



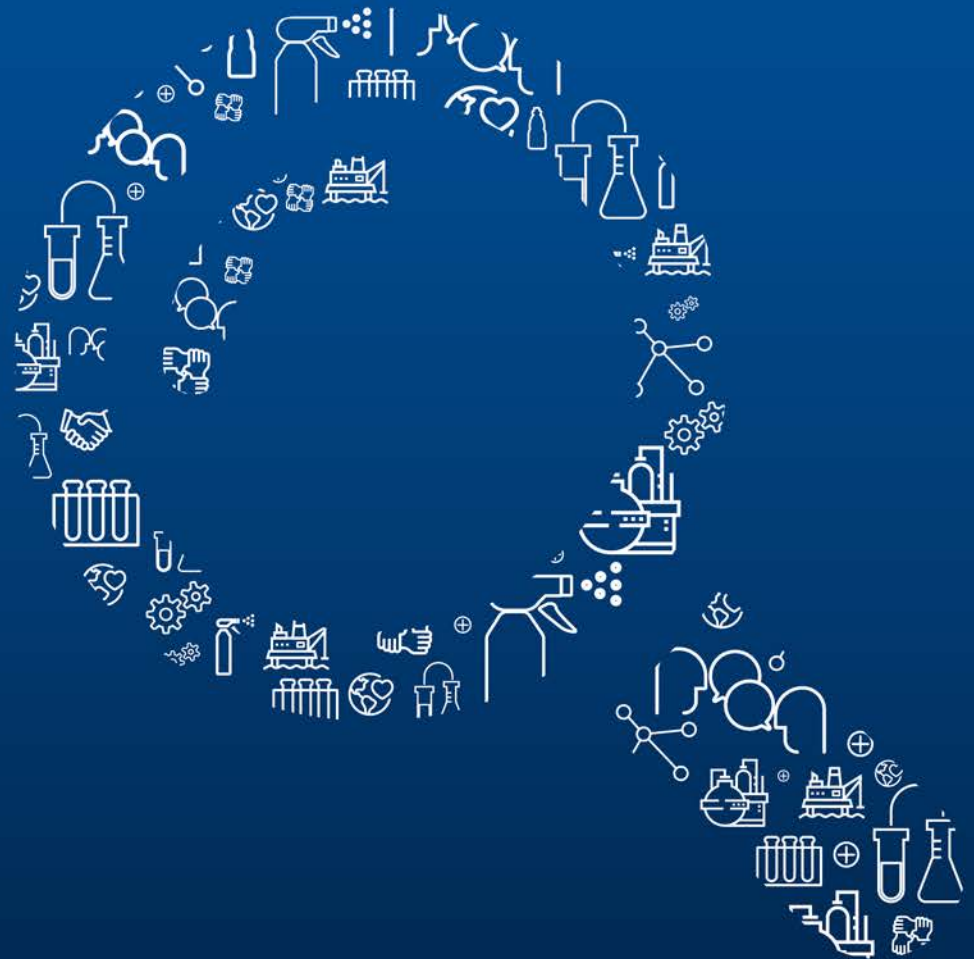


(Bio)degradability: a way forward

- Derogation - §3(a) Polymers that occur in nature that have not been chemically modified (other than by hydrolysis)
- Derogation - §3(b) Polymers that are (bio)degradable

Both are not microplastics and are not subject to any restriction on placing on the market, labelling or reporting

A driver for innovation, substitution and sustainability



Commitment and...

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Microplastics

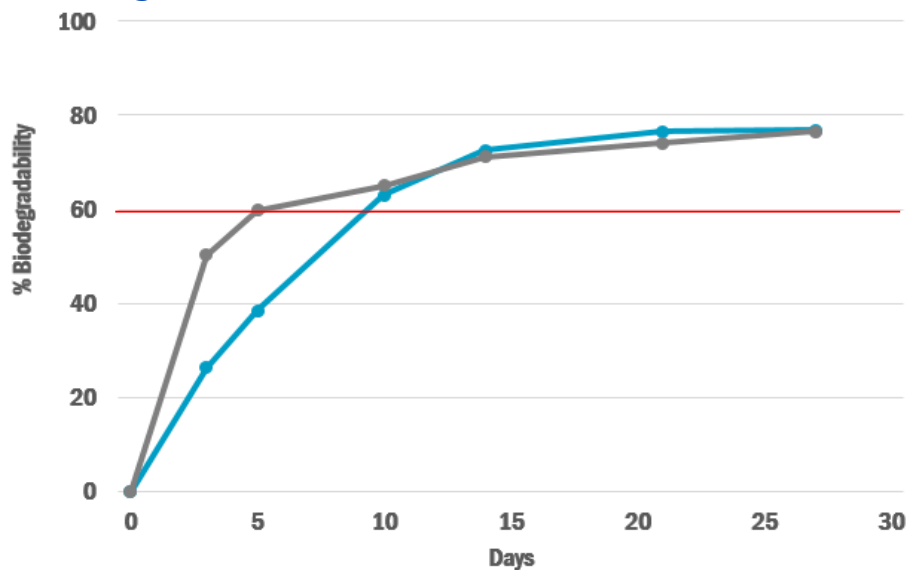
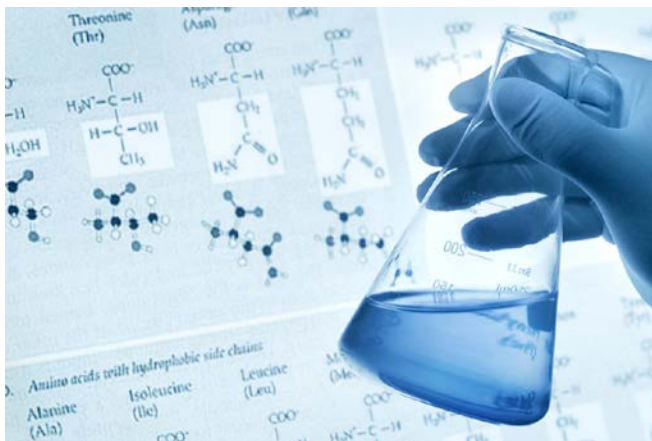
We are committed to ensuring that our consumer products do not cause any microplastics to enter the environment.

Key Facts

- We understand microplastics to refer to solid, insoluble plastic particles that are five millimeters or smaller and are not biodegradable.
- We do not use any "microbeads" in our Beauty Care or Laundry & Home Care products worldwide. These materials were previously used in individual products as peeling or abrasive particles.
- From 2020 onwards, we will only use natural or biodegradable opacifiers in our consumer products worldwide.
- We also want to replace all synthetic perfume encapsulations with materials that are biodegradable by 2022 at the latest.

...Innovation is already happening

Cosmetics: Celus-Bi® Feel tested readily biodegradable (OECD 301:2014 method)



Biodegradable polyester capsules comprising an aqueous core and...

Abstract

The invention relates to microcapsules comprising a capsule shell, and a capsule core, wherein the capsule shell comprises a polyester, and wherein the capsule core comprises a water-soluble pesticide, and at least 10 wt% of water based on the total weight of the capsule core; to a process for manufacturing said microcapsules; to a method of application of the microcapsules for controlling undesired insect or mite attack, harmful fungi, and/or undesired vegetation, and/or for regulating the growth of plants; to plant propagation material comprising the microcapsules; and to the use of the microcapsules for reducing the volatility, or the leaching behavior of the pesticide.

Classifications

A01N25/28 Microcapsules or nanocapsules

— Celus-Bi Feel — Sodium Acetate

WO2017125395A1
WIPO (PCT)

Download PDF Find Prior Art Similar

Other languages: French

Inventor: Ewelina BURAKOWSKA-MEISE, Evgueni Klimov, Joanna Meczfel-Marczewski, Matthias Bratz

Worldwide applications

Source: Roelmi HPC

Public consultation is on-going

- By 20 September 2019
- Through the dedicated webform:
<https://echa.europa.eu/restrictions-under-consideration/-/substance-rev/22921/term>
- Final opinions: **March 2020**



Take home messages

- The proposal is wide-ranging and ambitious
- Far-reaching consequences, but innovation and sustainable substitution are built into the proposal and appear to be possible
- Participate in the public consultation



Thank you!

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