Request for advice from the WCSR

Advice on analytical methods of certain substances

Context of the request for advice:

Restrictions are an instrument to protect human health and the environment from unacceptable risks posed by chemicals. Restrictions are normally used to limit or ban the manufacture, placing on the market (including imports) or use of a substance, but can impose any relevant condition, such as requiring technical measures or specific labels[1].

A restriction may apply to any substance on its own, in a mixture or in an article, including those that do not require registration.

In this context, BE CA discuss with NEA to help them to determine the best available measuring methods to measure certain substances. To help them in this role the BE CA would like to request an advice of the WCSR in relation measuring methods for certain restricted substances of the annex XVII of REACH.

Scope of the advice:

The WCSR will select the most scientifically appropriate method for a list of substances restricted under the annex XVII of REACH .

The selection of the most appropriate methods will be carried out on the basis of:

- Availability of international standardized methods (EN, ISO, ASTM, …)
- Availabilities of European national standards for the substances and matrices in question
- Validated test methods in literature
- The industrials methods

The methods will be evaluated with regard to application area, limit of quantification, limit of detection, expected measurement uncertainty and repeatability.

A description of the analytical method will be given, including specific requirements :

- Method of detection (total content or migration);
- Preparation of the samples and extraction;
- Solvents;
- Purification,
- Particle size reduction;
- Minimum intake;
- Use of isotope labelled internal standards;
- QC samples;
- Type of machine used for the analysis (including settings);
- Etc.

[1] https://echa.europa.eu/regulations/reach/restriction

The substances and the matrix to be analysed are the following :

- Nonylphenol and nonylphenol ethoxylates in textile
- Cr(VI) in leather
- Phthalates in soft PVC
- Lead in metallic alloys
- Lead in plastics
- PAH in plastics.