
Norwegian Agency Publishes Fact Sheet on Prohibited Substances in Imported Products

Last week, the Norwegian Environment Agency published a two-page fact sheet for importers on legal requirements for preventing hazardous substances in products. The document - Fact sheet M-124-2014 - states the importer is responsible for ensuring the products do not contain prohibited substances, that risk assessments have been completed when required, and that the CE mark appears on products as needed.

The fact sheet calls for increased scrutiny of imported products that may contain the following substances: lead, cadmium, mercury, nickel, azo dyes, volatile organic compounds, formaldehyde, PFOA, PFOS, and DMF.

Download the fact sheet at

<http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/Documents/publikasjoner/M124/M124.pdf>.

Statistics & Trends

New Zealand's TV Takeback Program Reaches 200,000 Device Milestone

In September 2012, the Government of New Zealand launched a TV Takeback Program to coincide with the country's transition from analogue to digital television broadcasting. Today, Amy Adams, the Minister of Environment, announced that the program has collected more than 200,000 unwanted TVs to date (211,043 to be precise).

The collection program will continue as the transition from analog to digital service was completed only last December. When Adams launched the program in 2012, she said the government hoped to divert up to 500,000 televisions from landfill.

Get more information at

<http://beehive.govt.nz/release/200000-tvs-collected-under-govt%E2%80%99s-tv-takeback-programme>.

2013 Swedish E-Waste Collection Up 3.8% from Previous Year

EI-Kretsen, the Swedish EEE compliance scheme, released 2013 collections data on February 18. Among the statistics highlighted were a 3.8% increase in the total number of waste devices collected and 146,919 tons of collected WEEE and waste batteries. The per capita collection weight was 15.31 kilograms, well above the target set for EU Member States.

Collections increased for most of the 10 EU categories of WEEE, including small WEEE, appliances, power tools and toys.

Download the 2013 Swedish e-waste collections data at

http://www.el-kretsen.se/sitespecific/elkretsen/files/insamlingsstatistik_2013.pdf.

French Office Paper Recycling Rate Up Two Percent in 2013

EcoFolio, the French paper compliance scheme, said on February 12 that the office paper recycling rate for France increased to 49% in 2013, a two percent increase from 2012.

France has set a target to recycle 55% of office paper by 2016. To help further increase paper recycling this year, EcoFolio said that a public awareness campaign will begin on February 25 and feature 10,000 signs and posters that encourage residents and office workers to source separate their office paper.

The EcoFolio communique is posted at

<http://www.ecofolio.fr/actualites/progression-en-2013-du-recyclage-des-papiers>.

New South Wales Offers Businesses \$14.7 Million In Recycling Grants

The New South Wales Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched two new grant programs for businesses under its Waste Less, Recycle More initiative. Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) may apply for funding to reduce waste and increase recycling as part of the Business Advisory Services Grants Program. SMEs can apply for grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000. A total of \$11.1 million was allocated by the NSW EPA for the SME program.

The second program, the Industrial Ecology Business Support Grants program, "*will support networks across NSW to help bring medium and larger businesses together to identify waste reuse and recycling projects.*" The four-year program was allocated \$3.6 million.

Deadlines and other grant information are available at

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/grants.htm#industrial>.

German Environment Agency to Launch Collaboration to Reduce E-Waste Generation

In an effort to reduce the generation of e-waste in Germany, the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) said on Monday that it will launch a collaborative effort with stakeholders to help make electronic devices more durable and easier to repair and to direct more used electronic devices to refurbishment and reuse.

A kick off meeting with interested stakeholders is scheduled for May 22 in Berlin. Businesses, academia, and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend. Representatives from all levels of government are also expected to attend.

Much of the effort will be driven by three working groups focused on 1) making devices more durable and easy to repair, 2) improving the quality of products destined for reuse, and 3) increasing used device sales at second-hand stores.

A brochure on the kick off meeting agenda can be downloaded at http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/378/dokumente/flyer_wider_die_versehwendung.pdf.

US EPA Awards \$3 Million to Research Toxic Chemical Effects on Brain Development

On February 12, the US Environmental Protection Agency announced it has awarded \$3 million in funding grants to three universities and a medical research institute to "*better understand how chemicals interact with biological processes and how these interactions may lead to altered brain development.*"

The EPA said the research will lead to "*efficient and cost-effective models to better predict if and how exposure to environmental chemicals may lead to developmental neurotoxicity.*"

For more information, go to <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceeac8525735900400c27/5a399b72e128afe485257c7d005e8582!OpenDocument>.

Korean Government Launches National Wood Waste Recycling Plan

According to a February 18 announcement by the Ministry of Environment for the Republic of Korea, two ministries and the Korean Park Service will coordinate on implementing a plan to reduce wood waste from forest harvesting that otherwise would be sent to landfill. The plan will recover 80% of the waste and as much as save 69 billion won in disposal costs.

The plan uses a four-step hierarchy that includes recycling of waste for landscaping, recycling of waste for hardwood materials, energy recovery and finally landfill disposal.

The MOE announcement is posted at <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=341138>.

Business Initiatives

EU Bioplastics Industry Research Touts LCA Benefits of Bioplastic Bags

On February 14, the industry organization European Bioplastics released the results of a life cycle analysis (LCA) of carryout bags made from various materials including bioplastics. According to organization, the study was conducted to "*exhibit the environmental benefits of promoting compostable bags for organic waste recycling as a pillar of the Roadmap to a Resource-Efficient Europe.*" The results are outlined in a 37-page report.

The study compared bags made of paper, virgin polyethylene, 25% recycled polyethylene, and two BASF ecovio(r) films, and the results were reviewed by four independent organizations including the Oeko-Institut, e.V., which conducts many European Commission studies and public

consultations. The study examined materials in regard to carryout applications only but also to "support organic waste diversion."

According to European Bioplastics, the study demonstrates "*certified compostable bags can play an important role in promoting a bioeconomy and a resource-efficient Europe in countries where organic waste is collected separately.*" The study's release is timely as EU policymakers decide the role of bioplastics in reducing plastic waste and disposable carryout bag consumption.

Download European Bioplastics LCA carryout bags report at http://en.european-bioplastics.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/LCA_carrier_bags_2014.pdf.

French Tire Makers Renew Recovery Agreement With Supply Chain Participants

Aliapur, a French tire recovery organization formed by leading tire manufacturers, announced on February 14 that it had renewed a framework agreement with automotive centers and garages to improve the management of end-of-life tires. An original agreement was signed in 2012.

According to the Aliapur announcement, tire manufacturers and with automotive centers and garages will form several working groups to examine possible new initiatives such as a waste tire management certification scheme for automobile repair technicians, developing standards for tire retreading, and coordinating on research and development of new waste tire recovery solutions.

Get more information at <http://www.aliapur.fr/actus/un-espace-de-coordination-pour-la-gestion-des-pneus-en-fin-de-vie>.

Copyright, 2014
Raymond Communications, Inc.
P.O. Box 4311
Silver Spring, MD 20914-4311 USA
<http://www.raymond.com>
email: circulation@raymond.com