

Revision of the “Order for Enforcement of the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc.”

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Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Office of Chemical Safety,
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1. Background

At the 7th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2015, “polychlorinated naphthalenes, including dichlorinated naphthalenes, trichlorinated naphthalenes, tetrachlorinated naphthalenes, pentachlorinated naphthalenes, hexachlorinated naphthalenes, heptachlorinated naphthalenes, octachlorinated naphthalene” and “pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters” came under its scope for elimination. Based on the decisions, “polychlorinated naphthalenes containing two chlorine atoms” and “pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters” will be designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc. (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”) to prohibit their manufacture, import and use. In addition, the Act will expand its scope of import restrictions to some products in which each material is used. Polychlorinated naphthalenes containing three or more chlorine atoms were already designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act in 1979.

<Chemical Substances to be designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act>

Polychlorinated naphthalenes containing two chlorine atoms
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Pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters
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<Products to be banned to import, in which “polychlorinated naphthalenes containing two chlorine atoms” are used>

Lubricating and cutting oils

Wood antiseptics, insecticides, and fungicides
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Paints (limited to those for antiseptic, insecticidal, and fungicidal use)
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<Products to be banned to import, in which “pentachlorophenol and its salts and esters” are used>

Wood antiseptics, insecticides, and fungicides
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Wood treated with antiseptics, insecticides, and fungicides

Plywood treated with antiseptics, insecticides, and fungicides
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Glues

2. Purpose

In order to prevent environmental pollution by the chemical substances that could pose a risk of impairing human health or of interfering with the population and/or growth of flora and fauna.

3. The date of enforcement

- (1)The amendment of the order for enforcement to designate the above chemical substances as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act will enter into force in April 2016.
- (2)The amendment of the order for enforcement to prohibit import of the above products, in which each chemical substance is used, will enter into force in October 2016.