Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of the Chemicals (REACH) requires for example that information of certain Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) is communicated in the supply chain when it is over 0.1% in the article, preparation or substance. For further information please visit SVHC candidate obligations and SVHC candidate list.

Due to the identification as carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic for reproduction substances, sodium dichromate (both anhydrous and dihydrate), sodium chromate, potassium chromate, ammonium dichromate, potassium dichromate, chromium trioxide, acid generated from chromium trioxide and their oligomers, strontium chromate, dichromium tris(chromate), potassium hydroxyoctaoxodizincatedichromate and pentazinc chromate octahydroxide have been placed on the candidate list of SVHC on 28th October, 2008, 18th June, 2010, 15th December, 2010, 20th June, 2011 and 19th December, 2011, respectively.

There are currently no international test standards available to identify and determine quantitatively the amounts of these SVHC present in consumer products finished articles. After careful consideration of ECHA requirements and thorough research, a SGS in-house screening method has been developed by checking the presence of chromium(VI) and other appropriate tracers in the sample. This approach is confirmed as valid according to the recommendation from the ECHA helpdesk. However, due to the fact that the source of chromium(VI) cannot be categorically identified, the amount of chromate/dichromate compounds present is therefore based on calculation. The anhydrous form of sodium dichromate is evaluated according to ECHA explanation. For the sake of maximum security the calculation is based on the worst-case scenario for each individual compound and the reported value should be regarded as for reference only.

Whenever there is a positive finding, clients are advised to review the chemical formulation as well as the related production process in order to ascertain the material of concern which is present in the article. We would like to inform you that there may be further obligations in connection with REACH for placing articles containing >0.1% SVHC on the markets of EU member states. Please contact reach@sgs.com for further information.

SGS GLOBAL REACH AND RSTS TEAM
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The explanations given in this document reflect our best understanding of the REACH regulation with regard to SVHC and resulting obligations at the time of publication. The interested reader is referred to the regulatory primary literature and or professional advice for legally binding advice.