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CONNECTIVITY NOV 2026

The EU Tightens POPs Controls on MCCPs: What Manufacturers Need to Know



The European Commission has officially added medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) to Annex I of the EU Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/2035. Taking effect on 16 December 2026, the measure broadly prohibits manufacturing, placing on the market, and using MCCPs—whether as standalone substances, in mixtures, or inside finished articles—unless covered by a specific exemption.

Why This Matters?

Historically, MCCPs have been widely used as secondary plasticizers, flame retardants, and extreme-pressure additives across flexible PVC, cables, rubbers, sealants, adhesives, coatings, and industrial fluids. Because they are persistent in the environment and can also appear as unintentional trace contaminants or impurities within other chlorinated paraffin blends, compliance requires more than a quick check for "MCCP" on a bill of materials.

Unlike broader chemical restrictions that leave wide transitional runways, listing under Annex I of the EU POPs Regulation triggers strict lifecycle controls across the European Union. Manufacturers, importers, and downstream users supplying electrical and electronics (E&E), construction materials, industrial equipment, or specialty chemical formulations should review affected materials and existing inventory ahead of 16 December 2026.

What Changes—and When?

RESTRICTED SUBSTANCE	REQUIREMENTS
Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCPs) as unintentional trace contaminants (UTC): • $C_{14}H_{(30-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 5; • $C_{15}H_{(32-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 5; • $C_{16}H_{(34-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 6; • $C_{17}H_{(36-y)}Cl_y$ where y ≥ 6;	• ≤ 1000 mg/kg in substances, mixtures, and articles • ≤ 20000 mg/kg for qualifying recovered cable material and articles used in road furniture or fence-support blocks until 16 December 2028

PERMITTED USE	DEADLINE	KEY CONDITION
Flexible PVC wires and cables for:		
• Construction	16 Dec 2028	Construction-sector application
• Medical and IVD devices	16 Dec 2031	Devices within Regulations (EU) 2017/745 or 2017/746
Specified sealants, one-component PU foam, waterproof and anti-corrosion coatings	2028 or 2031	Deadline depends on application and recovered-material conditions
Specified aerospace, space, defence and ammunition uses	2031 to 2041	Use-specific conditions apply
Spare parts and repair for vehicles, specific machinery, medical/IvD E&E, instruments, aerospace and defence	31 Dec 2041	MCCPs were initially used in production

How SGS Helps Manufacturers Ensure Chemical Safety and Regulatory Compliance

Navigating overlapping EU chemical rules—from POPs and REACH to RoHS—requires verified data rather than guesswork. SGS helps manufacturers safeguard market access and product integrity through:

1. **Advanced Chemical Testing:** Comprehensive laboratory analysis of plastics, coatings, and electronic components for chlorinated paraffins, PFAS, bisphenols, phthalates, and flame retardants
2. **EU Regulatory Compliance:** Practical guidance across POPs, REACH, and RoHS to help verify product conformance and protect uninterrupted EU market access.

Ensure your electronics meet chemical regulations and sustainability standards with tailored testing, certification and compliance support from SGS.



FOR ENQUIRIES

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