

Commission Directive (EU) 2020/2089 of 11 December 2020 amending Annex II to Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the prohibition of allergenic fragrances in toys (Text with EEA relevance)

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Directive 2009/48/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the safety of toys⁽¹⁾, and in particular point (b) of the first subparagraph of Article 46(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Directive 2009/48/EC lays down a general prohibition of 55 allergenic fragrances in toys, as listed in the table in the first paragraph of point 11 of Part III of Annex II to that Directive, in order to protect children from allergies that those fragrances can cause when used in toys.
- (2) The Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS), which assists the Commission as an independent risk assessment body in the area of cosmetic products, notes in its opinion of 26 and 27 June 2012⁽²⁾ that contact allergy to fragrances is a common, significant and relevant problem in Europe, and that exposure to fragrances occurs from the use of other consumer products, such as toys. The SCCS also notes that, in recent years, it has become a trend to add fragrance chemicals to many types of consumer products, such as children's toys, which may contribute significantly to the fragrance exposure of the consumer by the dermal route. The SCCS adds that the consumer is exposed to fragrance substances from a wide variety of cosmetic products, other consumer products, pharmaceuticals and occupational exposures, and that all those exposures are of importance in the context of contact allergy as it is not the source of exposure that is critical, but the cumulative dose per unit area.
- (3) A survey of allergenic substances in products for children carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency in Denmark⁽³⁾ shows the presence of allergenic fragrances in toys, namely modelling clays, slimes, a doll, a teddy bear, and rubber bands.
- (4) The Expert Group on Toys Safety advises the Commission in the preparation of legislative proposals and policy initiatives in the area of toy safety. The mission of its

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subgroup on Chemicals in Toys (subgroup Chemicals) is to provide advice with regard to chemical substances which may be used in toys.

- (5) The Expert Group on Toys Safety recalled, at its meeting on 13 September 2019⁽⁴⁾, that an allergenic substance, whether present in cosmetic products or in toys, is always allergenic. That so-called intrinsic property of the substance is independent from the use of the substance and is therefore present irrespective of whether the allergenic substance is used in cosmetics or in toys. Consequently, the Expert Group considered that an allergenic substance presenting a risk in cosmetic products could equally present a risk in toys. It therefore underlined the importance to take thorough account of the opinions of the SCCS and of its predecessor committees on allergenic fragrances in cosmetic products when regulating allergenic fragrances in toys.
- (6) Directive 2009/48/EC allows the Commission to prohibit or to require labelling of allergenic fragrances in toys. Contrary to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽⁵⁾, which regulates cosmetic products, it does not allow the Commission to set maximum limits for allergenic fragrances.
- (7) In its opinion of 26 and 27 June 2012 the SCCS concluded that cosmetic products containing atranol or chloroatranol are not safe. The SCCS thus confirmed the opinion of the Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) of 7 December 2004⁽⁶⁾ that atranol and chloroatranol should not be present in consumer products. The subgroup Chemicals therefore recommended, at its meeting on 3 May 2018⁽⁷⁾, to prohibit the use of atranol and chloroatranol in toys, by adding them to the table in the first paragraph of point 11 of Part III of Annex II to Directive 2009/48/EC.
- (8) In its opinion of December 1999⁽⁸⁾, the Scientific Committee on Cosmetic Products and non-food Products intended for Consumers (SCCNFP), which was a predecessor of the SCCS, included methyl heptine carbonate among the fragrance chemicals less frequently reported as contact allergens. On the basis of that opinion, methyl heptine carbonate was included among the allergenic fragrances that have to be listed on the toy, on an affixed label, on the packaging or in an accompanying leaflet, in accordance with the third paragraph of point 11 of Part III of Annex II to Directive 2009/48/EC. In its opinion of 25 September 2001⁽⁹⁾, the SCCNFP recommended that the level of methyl heptine carbonate in finished cosmetic products should not exceed 0,01 %.
- (9) Considering the above, and in particular the SCCS opinion concluding that cosmetic products containing atranol or chloroatranol are not safe, the SCCP opinion that atranol and chloroatranol should not be present in consumer products and the SCCNFP opinion that methyl heptine carbonate should not exceed 0,01 % in cosmetic products, the Expert Group on Toys Safety recommended, at its meeting on 13 September 2019, to prohibit the use of atranol, chloroatranol and methyl heptine carbonate in toys.
- (10) In light of the opinions of the SCCS, the SCCP and the SCCNFP, and of the recommendation of the Expert Group on Toys Safety the use of atranol, chloroatranol and methyl heptine carbonate in toys should be prohibited.
- (11) Directive 2009/48/EC should therefore be amended accordingly.