



The latest trends, services & promotions

## ECHA's Forum Publishes REF-10 Report on Chemical Compliance in Consumer Products



The Forum for Exchange of Information on Enforcement (Forum) is a network of authorities responsible for the enforcement of the REACH, CLP, PIC, POP, and Biocidal Product regulations in the EU, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein with the aim to improve the protection of human health and the environment from the risks that can be posed by chemicals, while enhancing the competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

In December 2023, they published the first edition of the [REF-10 project report](#) regarding the integrated control of chemicals in products (substances, mixtures and articles) within different legislation such as the REACH Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006), POP Regulation (Regulation (EU) No 2019/1021), RoHS Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) and Toys Directive (Directive 2009/48/EU). The only part excluded from "restrictions" is the REACH legislation concerning candidate list substances (Article 33).

**In this report, it shows that over 2,400 products were checked in 26 EU countries, more than 400 of them had breached various chemicals laws.**

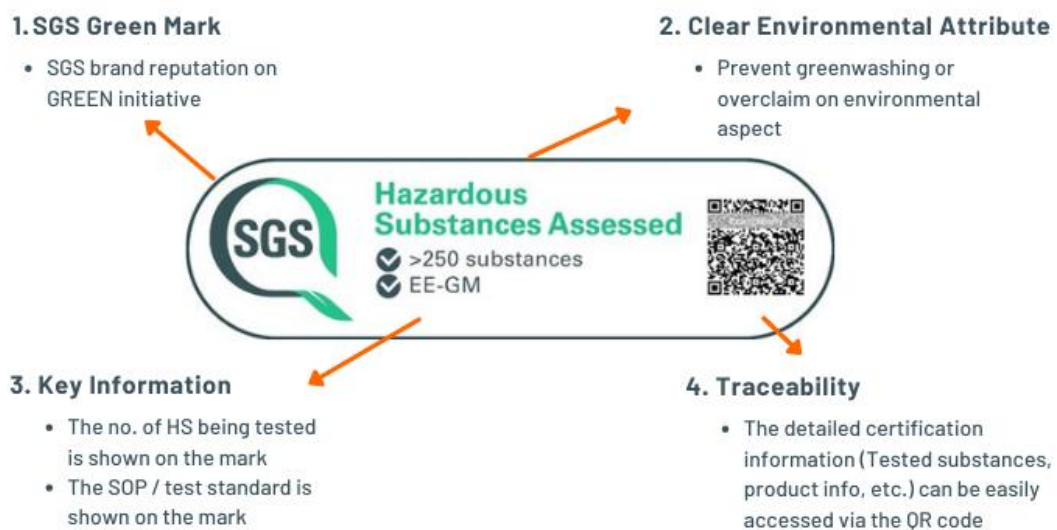
- 1. Electrical devices such as electrical toys, chargers, cables, headphones:**
  - 52 % of these products were found non-compliant, mostly due to lead found in solders, phthalates in soft plastic parts, or cadmium in circuit boards
- 2. Sports equipment such as yoga mats, bicycle gloves, balls or rubber handles of sport equipment:**
  - 18 % of these products were found to be non-compliant mostly due to SCCPs and phthalates in soft plastic and PAH in rubber
- 3. Toys such as bathing/aquatic toys, dolls, costumes, play mats, plastic figures, fidget toys, outdoor toys, slime and childcare articles:**
  - 16 % of non-electric toys were found to be non-compliant, mostly due to phthalates found in soft plastic parts, but also other restricted substances such as PAHs, nickel, boron or nitrosamines
- 4. Fashion products such as bags, jewelry, belts, shoes and clothes:**
  - 15 % of these products were found non-compliant due to the phthalates, lead and cadmium

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In cases where non-compliant products were found, inspectors have taken enforcement measures, with most of them resulting in the withdrawal of such products from the market.

To avoid such action, SGS Green Mark, Hazardous Substance Assessed (HSA), can precisely verify the presence of, and to quantify the volume of, >300 hazardous substances of environmental concern which may be harmful to humans and the environment. This includes heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants, and others. This assessment covers hazards that may occur throughout a product.

The aim is to improve transparency and enable differentiation in competitive markets while allowing consumers access to better information to drive their decision-making process, whether that's concerns over cybersecurity, environmental protection or performance.



SGS Green Mark, alongside the SGS Performance Mark, SGS Food Contact Product Mark and SGS Cybersecurity Mark, we can support manufacturers, suppliers and retailers in the delivery of safe, high-performing and compliant products to target markets.

For more information, please contact our Customer Service team.

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