



The latest trends, services & promotions

Surveillance Uncovers Toxic Chemicals in Consumer Audio Products



In a recent market surveillance conducted by EU-funded [ToxFree LIFE for All](#) project, researchers collected 180 samples from 81 headphone models sold in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia and Austria and all of the tested products contained endocrine-disrupting substances.

As [reported](#), hazardous substances were detected in every product tested. While many individual substances appeared in low concentrations, it raises concerns about the long-term risk to endocrine and fertility due to the detection of chlorinated paraffin, bisphenols, phthalates, and new brominated flame retardant.

Among the detected substances, Bisphenol A (BPA) appeared in 98% of samples, while its common replacement, Bisphenol S (BPS) was detected in more than 75%, with some concentrations far exceeding levels proposed by European regulators. The report also highlighted the widespread use of “regrettable substitutions”—where banned chemicals are replaced with nearly identical alternatives that carry similar endocrine-disrupting and neurotoxic risks.

Evaluation result in different categories

EVALUATION	RATING
Contact parts	68% green
Non-contact parts	21% yellow + 37% red
Chlorinated paraffin, flame retardant, phthalate	>80% green
Bisphenols	69% green
Product from well-known brands	48% red
Product from Retail brands	50% red
Product from No-name brands	27% red
* “Traffic light” rating system (green = low risk, yellow = moderate concern, red = high concern)	

How SGS Helps Manufacturers Ensure Chemical Safety and Regulatory Compliance

With regulators increasing scrutiny and consumers demanding transparency, SGS can help manufacturers to ensure product safety through our comprehensive solutions that address such risks, such as:

- 1. Advanced Chemical Testing**
 - Analysis on plastics, coatings, and electronic components for bisphenols, phthalates, flame retardants, and chlorinated paraffins
- 2. EU Regulatory Compliance**
 - From REACH and RoHS to evolving endocrine-disruptor restrictions, SGS guides manufacturers through complex requirements to ensure safe market access