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| NEXT STEPS |  |
| **Meeting date: 25th March 2021** | |
| **Group Meeting: Buying Community Meeting**  **Emerging Risk and Product Issues Meeting** | |
| **Location: Teams** | |

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| **Item** | **SUBJECT** |  |  |
| 1. | **Introduction**  Members were welcomed, the competition statement shared, and members were reminded that the meeting was being held under Chatham House Rule.  Members were informed this would be David Bolton’s last, and Adrian Simpson would be in place for the next and future meetings. |  |  |
| 2**.** | COMMON ISSUES & EMERGING RISKS | | |
| 2.1 | **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**  This will be covered in the individual agenda items |  |  |
| 2.2 | **OPSS Feedback Survey**  **Members reminded to participate in the OPSS stakeholder feedback survey.**  **OPSS are interested in individual members response to gather a wide scope of evidence.** |  |  |
| 2.3 | **Defra Consultation - National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants**  The UK government has launched a consultation on the latest updates to its National Implementation Plan for Persistent Organic Pollutants.  Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are toxic chemical substances that are slow to degrade, can accumulate in human and animal tissues and are often discovered long distances from their place of manufacture or use. POPs can be found in consumer and industrial products such as electronics, textiles, and furniture and can leach onto land, into the water and into the air.    The government is consulting on the UK’s plans to monitor, reduce and eliminate new POPs from the environment, as well as detailing the progress made towards the elimination of older POPs substances.    The Stockholm Convention agreement requires that parties adopt and introduce measures to reduce their release of POPs into the environment with the aim of minimising human and wildlife exposure. As a signatory of the Stockholm Convention, the UK is required to develop a National Implementation Plan (NIP), to outline how it has put in place its obligations under the global treaty to protect human health and the environment from POPs.  The UK’s NIP document was first produced in 2007 and updates were published in 2013 and 2017. The plan has now been revised again, to further explain and update on how the Convention is being implemented in the UK, and to outline next steps for the management of POPs, particularly those substances which have been more recently listed by the Convention for restriction, reduction or elimination of unintentional production. Many of the pesticides and industrial chemicals listed in the Convention have already been banned in the UK for many years. However, continued use is permitted for certain applications based on limited exemptions. These are outlined in Annexes A and B of the Convention <http://chm.pops.int/>.    [The draft updated National Implementation Plan has been published on Citizen Space](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/plan-for-persistent-organic-pollutants-pops-team/draft-update-to-uk-nip). Please see the consultation cover letter. **Interested parties are invited to share their views from today for eight weeks until 14 May 2021**.      Kind regards,  The Defra Chemicals Comms Team | DB |  |
| 2.4 | **UK REACH work programme - restrictions**  The Government has announced that DEFRA are asking HSE to prepare restriction dossiers on:   * Lead ammunition * Substances in tattoo inks and permanent make-up     We also identified that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a priority group for action. On this basis, the Environment Agency, with support from HSE, will also perform Regulatory Management Options Analysis (RMOA) on PFAS this year.    Press release (focussing on lead ammunition): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-announced-to-phase-out-lead-ammunition-in-bid-to-protect-wildlife>  News story (providing an overview of the announced activity as a whole): <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restrictions-under-new-chemical-regime-announced-for-first-time>    If you have any questions, **Dr Jack Blandy** | Chemicals | Environmental Quality | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs [jack.blandy@defra.gov.uk](mailto:jack.blandy@defra.gov.uk) | +44 (0)2080265147 | |  |  |
| 2.5 | **Any Members doing Business in Taiwan, South Korea, Japan & Russia?**  Is anyone is trading in these areas and would be able to recommend any compliance/trading consultants who they have dealt with when looking to trade in these territories?  A member is looking for guidance at this stage and any recommendations are much appreciated.  Please inform Adrian [Adrian.simpson@brc.org.uk](mailto:Adrian.simpson@brc.org.uk) if you can help | All |  |
| 2.6 | **Pyrotechnics**  Update on discussions with an interested lab and BEIS  HSTTS/MTS confirmed with the BRC that they had shown an interest in becoming a Certification Body for Pyrotechnics, but on announcement that the Government were looking overseas, they stopped. BRC has requested a meeting with BEIS/UKAS/MTS/Firework Association to try and resolve this issue. BRC has also requested that the initial UKAS minimum timeline of 6 months also be reviewed. Adrian is aware.  Group to be kept up to date with any progress. | BRC |  |
| 2.7 | **Lighting -**  Update on discussions with members and BEIS  Suppliers will not be required to make spare parts available for lighting products and control gears; this is not included in the EU regs and not the GB regs.    The spirit behind these requirements is to encourage more modular design of lighting products and containing products, so that light sources can be removed and replaced more easily (so that the whole containing product does not become redundant if the light stops working). The requirements will apply to products placed on the market after they come into force, so have no retrospective effect on products already in circulation.    In terms of technical justification for not enabling the light source/control gear to be removed from the containing product, this comes down to the functionality, i.e. if complying with this requirement would compromise on the product’s functionality to such an extent that it becomes dysfunctional. Do members have any products in mind that they are concerned about – please share with Michael Kearney?  Point 1 - so we don't need to hold any spares at all now?  Suppliers will not be required to make spare parts available for lighting products and control gears; this is not included in the EU regs not the GB regs    Point 2 - we understand this and something we want to adopt / use - just this makes it slightly harder, as we are already designing items that will be due to land after this is potentially in force and we have no guidelines to work with  No guidelines planned at present.  Point 3 - examples:  These light sources are soldered into place and no space for clips etc  [**https://www.next.co.uk/style/st131442/991965#991965**](https://www.next.co.uk/style/st131442/991965#991965)  These are soldered and have crystals that would be damaged in removing  <https://www.next.co.uk/style/st321876/920639#920639>  We also need to know who will be liable if they are repaired incorrectly.  The issue of the Critical components list and product certification - BEIS has taken this one away  Members have requested a WG to review w/c 5th April. This will be a separate meeting to the Right to Repair WG, with specialists, but issues identified would be raised at the same meeting with BEIS/DEFRA. The Groups Brief is to create BRC Guidelines in the absence of any DEFRA  Invite to WG to be sent out. Those interested should respond to Adrian. | BRC  BRCAll  All |  |
| **2.8** | **Right to Repair Working Group**  Given the seriousness of this issue and lack of time, DB was requested to get a meeting in Adrian’s diary the first week of him joining (w/c 5th April)  Members to volunteer to be part of the group whose brief is to formulate a BRC Guidance document that will then be presented to BEIS / DEFRA in the absence of any other guidelines. Lighting to be included at the latter meeting. | BRC  All  BRC |  |
| 2.9 | **Bamboo in Melamine**  It was confirmed in June 2020 that bamboo this was not a permissible ingredient in plastic food contact items. EU authorities are being urged to take regulatory action to get these illegal products taken off sale.  Some members have removed from sale, others were selling through.  The BRC are not aware of any FSA action in this area and are not about to ask in case it raises awareness!  The use of bamboo (or other natural constituents) in combination with polymers, such as melamine for the manufacture of plastic Food Contact Materials (”FCMs”) does not have an explicit authorization under article 5 of Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 of 14 January 2011 on plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with food (”Regulation (EU) No 10/2011”). It is therefor illegal to be using them, and the EU parliament requested members in 2020 they be removed from sale.  EU research has found many products still on sale, many that do were considerably above the Specific Migration Limits (SMLs) laid down in Regulation (EU) No 10/2011.  Only the substances included in the Union list of authorised substances set out in Annex I of Regulation (EU) No 10/2011 may be intentionally used in the manufacture of plastic food contact materials and articles.  Other natural materials are also being used that are not on the permitted list. Until they are identified as safe and on the permitted list they should not be used (precautionary principle) | All |  |
| 2.10 | **EU address on products from UK via ecommerce / mail order** A member asked if there are any updates on EU address on products from UK via ecommerce / mail order?  An EU name and address and RP in EU is required now. One of the changes in July is that fulfilment centres will need to take on some responsibility for the products they are distributing. This is to try and cut out a route for fake and unsafe product products by making sure that someone takes responsibility for them. Not aware of guidance yet. Business currently dual labelling / RP where time has permitted. |  |  |
| 2.11 | **Future Meetings**    Invite for fortnightly schedule up to the end of the year has been sent out. Members can review frequency at any time.  Do not forget to submit agenda items in advance.  For future meetings:  Michael Kearney BEIS & Phil LeShirley RoSPA, Magnets.  **Postponed Meetings. To be rearranged by DB successor**  Phil LeShirley RoSPA:  Priorities + Primary Authority Relationship + Magnets issue  **Emma Drackford Electrical Safety First**  ESF have created an App which is being rolled out on Alexa and Google Home smart Technology. It allows a user to quote the make and model of a products and Google/Alexa will be able to confirm if it has been the subject of a previous product safety recall.    ESF are currently putting together some social media videos/infographics to help promote the apps and they would be looking for retailers to share on their social channels and website.  The advantage of these Apps would be that customers ‘opt in’ therefore no conflict with RTGF and GDPR.  Also, for large capital purchases such as ovens, washing machines, light fittings etc. which stay in the home when the owner or landlord is no longer there, it allows a new owner/tenant visibility of any items in the home which have been the subject to a previous product safety recall. | All |  |