

Information Note

Draft German “Printing Ink Ordinance” (21st ordinance amending the Consumer Goods Ordinance)

On 5th July 2016, Germany notified to the European Commission the draft of the 21st ordinance amending the German Consumer Goods Ordinance (21. Verordnung zur Änderung der Bedarfsgegenständeverordnung) pursuant to Directive (EU) 2015/1535; this amendment is called “Printing Ink Ordinance” (“Druckfarbenverordnung”). During the standstill period, which expired on 6th October 2016, eight EU Member States had expressed their concerns by “detailed opinions”. Two EU Member States and the European Commission had provided comments.

Meanwhile, the European Commission informed Germany that it intends to adopt new Union legislation on printed food contact materials, including printing inks. As this harmonized legislation is planned to be adopted in 2018, work on drafting the legislation is high on the agenda of the working programme for 2017 of the competent Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

The German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) which is in charge of the “Printing Ink Ordinance” said that they will closely observe the EU Commission’s activities. Whether or not the BMEL will pursue the national legislative initiative will be dependent on the progress achieved at European level.

The core element of the draft German ordinance is a list of substances which may only be used in the manufacture of printing inks for food contact materials. The current list is incomplete with key substances missing. Irrespective of the developments at EU level, the relevant German authorities continue working towards completion of the list. EuPIA supports them with this activity.

Against this background, there is no reason to request “compliance” with the requirements of the draft German Printing Ink Ordinance.

This information note will be updated as new information is available.

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