**Proposed Restriction of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in mixtures and articles for consumer use**

***What will the restriction mean in practice?***

The proposed restriction will prohibit the placing on the market or use of articles if formaldehyde released from them exceeds a concentration of 0.124 mg/m3 in the air of a test chamber used under the conditions prescribed in EN 717-1. Further information is available [here](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/03be844a-0960-990b-8264-1ac466bf6c90).

***Why is there a need for action?***

Formaldehyde is a high production volume chemical with a wide array of uses and at ambient temperature and atmospheric pressure, is a gas that is highly irritating to the upper respiratory tract and the eyes. A major source of consumer exposure to formaldehyde was identified in the use of formaldehyde-based resins, in particular UF resins, in wood-based materials used in construction and finished articles (e.g. furniture and laminate flooring). The adoption of an EU-wide emission limit for formaldehyde will prevent the risk of consumers being exposed to formaldehyde levels above the WHO guideline value from high formaldehyde emitting articles, including those imported from non-EU countries.

***What is the proposal?***

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is proposing a restriction of formaldehyde and formaldehyde releasers in mixtures and articles for consumer use. The proposal is to restrict the placing on the market or the use of all articles releasing formaldehyde at concentrations greater than or equal to 0.124 mg/m3 in the air of a test chamber used under the conditions prescribed in EN 717-1. See the [ECHA website](https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/019ab915-c3a6-3441-00eb-69e970c1c315) for more details.

***How can interested parties or the public have their say?***

Interested parties can submit comments to the European Commission during the public consultation until 20th September 2019 at the latest using the online submissions form at this [link](https://echa.europa.eu/restrictions-under-consideration/-/substance-rev/22919/term). However, earlier comments by 20th May 2019 are preferable for consideration by ECHA’s assessing committees.

The Chemicals Helpdesk of the Health & Safety Authority can answer any questions you may have; please contact the team at [chemicals@hsa.ie](mailto:chemicals@hsa.ie) April 2019