

Revision of the “Order for Enforcement of the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc.”

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Manufacturing Industries Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry
Office of Chemical Safety,
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1. Background

At the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants in 2017, “short-chained chlorinated paraffins (straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C10 to C13 and a content of chlorine greater than 48 per cent by weight)” and “decabromodiphenyl ether” came under its scope for elimination. Based on the decisions, “short-chained chlorinated paraffins (straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C10 to C13 and a content of chlorine greater than 48 per cent by weight)” and “decabromodiphenyl ether” will be designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act on the Evaluation of Chemical Substances and Regulation of Their Manufacture, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) to prohibit their manufacture, import and use. In addition, the Act will expand its scope of import restrictions to some products in which each material is used.

Furthermore, the Act will additionally impose import restrictions to some products which use PFOS or its salts. Those materials were designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act in 2010 and some of products which use those materials have already restricted to import (refer to G/TBT/N/JPN/307). In this notification, the Act will expand the scope of import restrictions regarding those products.

<Chemical Substances to be designated as Class I Specified Chemical Substances under the Act>

short-chained chlorinated paraffins (straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C10 to C13 and a content of chlorine greater than 48 per cent by weight)

decabromodiphenyl ether

<Products to be banned to import, in which “short-chained chlorinated paraffins (straight-chain chlorinated hydrocarbons with chain lengths ranging from C10 to C13 and a content of chlorine greater than 48 per cent by weight)” are used>

Lubricating, cutting and hydraulic oils

Chemicals for flame-retardant treatment for textiles
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Plasticizers for resin and rubber

Paints (limited to those for waterproof and anti-flammable)

Adhesives and sealing fillers

Fatliquoring agent for leather

<Products to be banned to import, in which “decabromodiphenyl ether” are used>

Flame-retardant textiles

Chemicals for flame-retardant treatment for textiles, resin and rubber
Adhesives and sealing fillers
Flame-retardant floor coverings
Flame-retardant curtains
Flame-retardant banner-flags

<Products to be banned to import, in which “PFOS and its salts” are used>

Etching agents (limited to those for uses in the manufacture of piezoelectric filters or of compound semiconductors which enable radio to transmit and receive radio waves with more than 3 MHz of frequencies)
Resist for semiconductors
Professional-use photograph films

2. Purpose

In order to prevent environmental pollution by the chemical substances that could pose a risk of impairing human health or of interfering with the population and/or growth of flora and fauna.

3. The date of enforcement

The amendment of the order for enforcement to prohibit import of the above products, in which each chemical substance is used, will enter into force in October 2018.