

FOOD CONTACT APPLICATIONS: BPA AND BADGE PROPOSED RESTRICTION

Continuous Filament Glass Fibre manufacturers contribution to the European Commission consultation

Glass Fibre Europe comments to the proposed Commission Regulation on the use of bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols and their derivatives with harmonised classification for specific hazardous properties in certain materials and articles intended to come into contact with food, amending Regulation (EU) No 10/2011, amending Regulation (EC) No 1895/2005 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/213.

Glass Fibre Europe request:

Glass Fibre Europe solicits the attention of the Commission for considering the use of BPA as precursor of BADGE-based epoxy film formers used in the formulation of sizing applied to CFGF products used in reinforced plastic intended for food contact applications as eligible for a derogation to the prohibition of the use of BPA in FCM. Provided such a derogation is considered justified, to be effective, it would require to be covered in the proposed amendment of Regulation 1895/2005.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION FOR DEROGATION

Glass Fibre Europe (GFE) wants to bring the attention of the Commission the specific case of Continuous Filaments Glass Fibre (CFGF) products used as reinforcement of plastic in the manufacture of Glass Fibre Reinforced Plastic (GFRP) materials and articles.

CFGF products have a glass filaments surface treatment (“sizing”) which is formulated to provide the adhesion of the glass filaments to the polymer matrix.

CFGF sizing do not contain any intentional addition of BPA.

Some CFGF sizing contain a BADGE-based epoxy film former, and its weight content is usually less than 1 % (w/w).

Such CFGF products are used in a large variety of end use GFRP applications, some of which are intended for food contact (e.g. food processing equipment) as well as for drinking water contact applications in the public water distribution networks (e.g. pipes, tanks, ladders in water towers, pumps). The later are long service applications (several decades) which currently have no qualified alternative to the use of BADGE-based epoxy film former for Glass Fibre Reinforcement for GFRP.

The proposed regulation will not only impact food contact applications but also prohibit *de facto* the use of such GFRP materials in drinking water contact applications: the entry BADGE in the draft Drinking Water EU Positive List refers also to Regulation 1895/2005 which will be amended by the proposed regulation – see extract hereunder of Annex I to C(2024) 237 final (p.49):

EURL Number	EC Number	CAS Number	FCM substance Number (A)	Starting substance name	Technical function (B)	Drinking water contact materials (C)	Maximum Tolerable Concentration at the tap in organic materials (MTC _{org}) in µg/l		Total Maximum Tolerable Concentration at the tap (MTC _{T_{org}, organic}) in µg/l (D)	Conditions of use	Expiry date
							Value for the starting substance	Values for other relevant chemical species (E)			
0363		1675-54-3 BADGE	426	2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane bis(2,3-epoxypropyl) ether	Monomer or other reactant (resin)	All	450 - expressed as BADGE and its hydrolysis products	BADGE chlorohydrins MTC _{sp} = 50 µg/l bisphenol-A MTC _{sp} = 2,5 µg/l epichlorohydrin MTC _{sp} = 0,1 µg/l	(49)	In compliance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1895/2005 (OJ L 302, 19.11.2005, p. 28).	31 December 2034

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CFGF products, containing BADGE-based epoxy film former sizing, are “intermediate food contact / drinking water contact materials” – they are not intended for direct contact with food or water as they are embedded in a polymer matrix.

Also to be noted, food contact and drinking water contact applications result in low surface area to volume ratios.

The non-intentional presence of residual BPA in BADGE-based epoxy film former can be controlled to low levels by appropriate selection and suppliers manufacturing processes.

As a result, the use of BADGE-based epoxy film formers in such applications will not lead to any significant migration into food and is expected to be not detectable with a limit of detection (LOD) of 0.01 mg/kg.

There are currently no alternative formulations for such products delivering equivalent performance in such applications.

Prohibiting such applications (for food contact and drinking water contact) which are and have been in service, duly authorized under current Member States applicable regulations, would lead to disproportionate consequences / disruptions in these supply chains.

About Glass Fibre Europe – EU Transparency Register n°635608817518-09.

Glass Fibre Europe, founded in 1987, is the voice of the European continuous filament glass fibre industry. It is composed of 8 companies: 3B the fibreglass company, Envalior, FYSOL SAS, Johns Manville, Nippon Electric Glass, Owens Corning, Valmiera Glass, and Saint-Gobain Vetrotex. Glass Fibre Europe represents all the major producers of continuous filament glass fibre in Europe. The continuous filament glass fibre industry is the cornerstone of the glass-based composite materials and technical textiles value-chains. Glass fibre's unique properties enable the production of wind energy, electric and electronic devices, and the development of sustainable solutions in a wide range of applications, such as transport and construction.