Environment and health : polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in extender oils and tyres (27th amend. Directive 76/769/EEC)

2004/0036(COD) - 16/11/2005 - Final act

PURPOSE: To amend provisions relating to the marketing and use of dangerous substances, in this case polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in extender oils and tyres (PHAs).

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive 2005/69/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council amending for the 27th time Council Directive 76/769 on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in extender oils and tyres).

CONTENT: The purpose of this amendment is to reduce the emission of Benzo(a)pyrene (BaP) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PHAs), both of which have been proven to be carcinogenic, mutagenic and toxic to reproduction. Indeed, the Scientific Committee on toxicity has confirmed the scientific findings, which identify the adverse health effects of PAHs.

In order to meets its objectives of reducing BaP and PHAs the Directive amends Council Directive 76/769 and in particular Annex I thereof. The provisions of this Directive cover passenger car tyres, light and heavy truck tyres, agricultural tyres and motorcycle tyres. The Directive foresees a transitory period to allow tyre producers to develop and test new types of tyres which can be produced without high aromatic extender oils. A further feature of the Directive is the adoption of harmonised test methods on PAHs in extender oils and tyres. However, the adoption of such test methods should not delay the entry into force of the Directive. Testing methods should preferably be developed at European or international level through either CEN or ISO. The Directive does not affect Community legislation laying down minimum requirements for the protection of workers. Lastly, the Directive does not intend to restrict the placing on the market of tyres produced before 1 January 2010 and which can thus be sold off from stocks subsequent to this date. All tyres re-treaded after 1 January 2010 should be re-treaded with new tread containing new PAH-low extender oils.

DATE OF APPLICATION: Member States must ensure that all the laws, regulations and administrative provisions needed to comply with this Directive are published by 29 December 2006. The measures will apply from 1 January 2010.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29 December 2005.