



EU Updates SVHC Candidate List Updated to 253 Substances

Regulatory Alert: REACH SVHC Candidate List Updated to 253 Substances

Immediate Compliance Obligations: 2 New Substances Added to REACH SVHC List

Continuing our commitment to proactive regulatory monitoring, we are highlighting the first major 2026 update to the REACH Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC). As of February 4, 2026, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has officially added two new hazardous chemicals, bringing the total number of SVHC entries from 251 to 253 substances.

The Update: New Hazardous Chemicals Identified

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) expanded the list based on serious concerns regarding human health. Notably, one of these substances marks a landmark regulatory shift as the first SVHC listed specifically for neurotoxicity under the "equivalent level of concern" criteria.

Substance Name	CAS Number	Reason for Inclusion	Primary Applications
n-Hexane	110-54-3	Specific target organ toxicity (STOT RE) – Neurotoxicity	Cleaning agents, solvent-based coatings, adhesives, and polymer processing.
Bisphenol AF (BPAF) and its salts	1478-61-1	Toxic for reproduction	Process regulators and cross-linking agents in high-performance fluoro-elastomers and epoxy resins.

Affected Industries & Technical Background

The inclusion of these substances triggers immediate compliance checks for several sectors. Experts emphasize the following:

- **Electronics:** BPAF is commonly found in moulding compounds, encapsulants, and protective coatings for power line filters and switches. While n-hexane is often used as a manufacturing solvent for wafers and metal frames, trace residues may still trigger disclosure requirements.
- **Specialty Polymers:** BPAF serves as a critical cross-linking agent for high-end resins and fluoro-elastomers used in aerospace and automotive sealing.
- **Industrial Cleaning:** n-Hexane remains a widely used degreasing solvent. Companies should immediately screen their chemical inventories for these substances to avoid regulatory gaps.

Legal Obligations: Effective Immediately

Unlike "Restrictions" (which have future grace periods), SVHC listings trigger immediate legal duties for any article containing the substance above 0.1% (w/w):

1. **Communication (Article 33):** EU/EEA suppliers must provide customers with sufficient information to ensure safe use of the article.
2. **SCIP Database Notification:** Companies must submit information to ECHA's SCIP database if their articles contain these SVHCs above the 0.1% threshold.
3. **Notification to ECHA:** Producers and importers of articles have six months (until August 4, 2026) to formally notify ECHA if the substance is present in their articles in quantities totalling over one tonne per year.
4. **Safety Data Sheets (SDS):** Suppliers of these substances or mixtures must update their Safety Data Sheets to reflect the new SVHC status.

Strategic Recommendation

As regulatory pressure intensifies, all business should conduct a thorough review of their bills of materials (BOMs). Any laboratory subcontracting requests specifically include n-hexane and BPAF analysis for clients in the electronics and high-performance materials sectors.