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# EU CLP revision in final stages after Parliament, Council of Ministers agreement

CHEMICAL WATCH NEWS

07 December 2023

## Compromise text brings MOCS exemption; changes broadly welcomed

[Chemical industry](#)[EU CLP](#)[Classification, labelling, packaging & SDSs](#)[EU](#)

The European Council of Ministers and Parliament have reached a provisional agreement on the Commission's long-awaited proposal to revise the CLP regulation, paving the way for imminent entry into force.

The two bodies endorsed the Commission's final [proposal](#), which amends the legislation from 2008, and included so-called 'compromise' provisions in a 5 December text. The final text, known as the compromise text, clarifies the rules on [labelling](#) substances and the required information for online selling.



This text would bring in the following changes:

- websites must display the hazardous properties of their products;
- companies have to provide clearer labelling of hazardous chemicals, including for online sales. The revision introduces advertising requirements and a minimum font size;
- businesses have the choice to use fold-out labels and digital labelling, while important safety information and hazard pictograms would remain on the packaging;
- new rules for refillable products to support the safe sale of household chemicals in bulk; and
- poison centres would receive better information more quickly during medical emergencies.

Under them, the Commission said it would be able to develop classification proposals on potentially hazardous substances, which would "speed up the pace" of their identification.

The CLP revision is an important objective of the EU's chemicals [strategy](#) for sustainability.

## Reception

NGOs welcomed the institutional agreement on the Commission's proposal.

Monique Goyens, director general of BEUC, said the new chemical labels "will be easier to read for consumers, helping them to make more informed purchasing choices, off and online".

The consumer body praised the decision to keep essential information for health, safety and the environment on the label, and establish strict rules for 'digital labels' via a QR code, "which in the view of consumer organisations can only complement, but never replace, the physical label".

Natacha Cingotti, programme lead for health and chemicals for the Health and Environmental Alliance (HEAL), said the three EU institutions reached "an overall protective agreement on the reform of the CLP legislation in a timely way".

In particular, HEAL welcomed the "proper referencing" of the newly added hazard [classes](#) for endocrine disrupting, bioaccumulating, persistent and mobile chemicals throughout the text, as well as the Commission allowing classifications for entire groups of chemicals instead of one-by-one assessments.

Downstream users group DUCC and the association of the European Adhesive and Sealant Industry (FEICA) said they supported exemptions for small packaging, provisions for the increased use of fold-out labels, and efforts to increase compliance for online sales. But they repeated concerns over the wide-ranging [impact](#) of the new provisions.

Any change will "have a knock-on effect on various sectors, including but not limited to biocides, pesticides, detergents, cosmetics, toys and medical devices", the industry groups said. This "has been greatly underestimated in the European Commission's impact assessment, especially with regard to minimum font size requirements for labelling", they said.

Next year, DUCC and FEICA said they want authorities to work with downstream user formulators to allow continued use of multilingual labels, despite the CLP amendments, to allow operators access to the entire single market.

## MOCS

In their compromise text on the Commission's proposal, the [European Parliament](#) and Council of Ministers agreed to update rules for classifying more than one constituent substances (MOCS), with the EU executive set to review the scientific evidence after five years.

"This is a key development to support the future of the natural ingredients used in cosmetics and fragrances, which goes hand in hand with the EU's objective to boost the bioeconomy," John Chave, director general of Cosmetics Europe, said.

Maintaining classification rules as they stand within CLP for these natural substances "was critical to avoid the overclassification of a number [them] with a cascading effect on their continued use and authorisation in cosmetic products", the trade body said.

The agreement also "enshrines the need for clear scientific reasoning for the grouping of substances for harmonised classification and labelling", Aurélie Perrichet, Europe regional director for International Fragrance Association (IFRA), said.

The measure helps to put the grouping approach into operation and preserve legal clarity, she added.

The European Parliament and Council of Ministers will now formally adopt the new regulation, with its entry into force taking place 20 days after publication in the EU's *Official Journal*.

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