

September 14, 2021

Subject: Impact of Washington State Safer Consumer Products Program on Heubach Ltd Products

Dear valued customer:

The Washington State legislature passed a law in May 2019 (70A.350), which directs the Washington State Department of Ecology to implement a regulatory program to reduce exposure to certain chemicals in consumer products. The program is currently focused on consumer products associated with five priority chemical substances – Phenols, PFAS, PCBs, Phthalates, and Organohalogen Flame Retardants. The law provides the authority to “Restrict or prohibit the manufacture, wholesale, distribution, sale, retail sale, or use, or any combination thereof, of a priority chemical or class of priority chemicals in a consumer product.” The identified consumer products associated with PCBs are paints and printing inks. Pigments are not considered to meet the definition of consumer products.

Nevertheless, Heubach Ltd. strives to provide the highest quality services to our customers and to help our partners to gain knowledge of our products. The color pigments industry has made significant technological changes since the 1980's, when laws first surfaced about PCBs in the environment, to ensure that color pigments products manufactured today are significantly below regulatory limits for PCBs set by USEPA, Health & Environment Canada, METI, and others. Heubach R&D and Technical experts have worked with customers and industry associations like CPMA and ETAD for many decades to address levels of impurities in commercial products, have successfully engineered solutions to meet customer needs, and will continue with this collaborative approach into the future.

- Heubach does not intentionally add PCBs to our pigments, nor do we use PCB-containing processing aids in the manufacturing process.
- The pigment industry is concerned with inadvertently - generated non-Arcolor, non-Clophen, non-Ascarel, and other non-industrial PCBs (CAS# 1336-36-3).
- “Zero PCB” cannot be achieved. PCBs in certain pigment technologies are technically unavoidable at trace levels, which can be minimized, but never eliminated, and will always be “detectable”. “Detectable” is defined as qualitatively above LOD, not giving exact figures, and being subject to matrix interference while testing. LOD (level of detection) can be extremely low in modern advanced analytical chemistry.
- Heubach tests approximately 15% of Azo, Polycyclic, and Phthalocyanine organic pigment production technology for PCBs. The average value of PCBs for this testing is under 25 ppm with an upper limit of 50 ppm and meets the US EPA regulation 40 CFR 761.

- Heubach utilizes ETAD 229 test method for measuring PCBs, also known as ISO 787-28, which was specially developed for organic pigments.
- Heubach's inorganic pigments are not checked for organic impurities, such as PCBs, because of the nature of the raw material and the production processes utilized.
- Heubach LTD. (USA) does not test raw materials (including pigments) for PCBs. We rely on vendor supplied information. Heubach LTD. (USA) does not test the content of PCBs in the dispersions produced domestically.

Heubach Ltd. is closely monitoring the regulatory changes and we are committed to comply with applicable regulations/laws. Should you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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