



European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers

For immediate release

FEFCO Voluntary Agreement to Phase out DiBP

Brussels 26 January 2009, FEFCO, the European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers, has reached a voluntary agreement to coordinate a common strategy for the whole industry to phase out DiBP in corrugated products.

Di-iso-butylphthalate (DiBP) is used as a softening agent in some adhesives. Some recent studies¹ have shown that DiBP has a similar toxicological profile as Di-butylphthalate (DBP) which has been included in the candidate list of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) recently² published by ECHA (European Chemicals Agency).

FEFCO represents 750 plants across Europe and is the only European Association representing the Corrugated Board Industry in Europe.

After considerable activity at European level, the corrugated sector, through its association, FEFCO, has recommended its members to remove adhesives containing phthalate in products.

The result of this recommendation is the voluntary initiative for the removal of Di-iso-butylphthalate (DiBP) from their products respecting the following guidelines:

- 1. FEFCO Members will cease using adhesives containing DiBP in paper and board applications.**
- 2. DiBP should not be replaced by any substance which is known to have harmful effects.**
- 3. FEFCO Members will report on the measures taken on an annual basis.**

FEFCO will promote its voluntary agreement at international level within the International Corrugated Case Association (ICCA) in order to convince overseas

¹ 120th meeting of the plastics commission of the BfR, report from 22./23. November 2006, in Bundesgesundheitsbl – Gesundheitsforsch – Gesundheitsschutz 2007, p. 977-979, Springer Medizin Verlag

² ECHA Press Release 28 October 2008 <http://echa.europa.eu>

producers of corrugated board to phase out the use of DiBP, which will help to reduce further the level of DiBP in the recycling loop.

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Note to the editors

FEFCO (European Federation of Corrugated Board Manufacturers) was established in 1952 and is the umbrella organisation of the European Corrugated Board Industry. Headquartered in Brussels, FEFCO has 24 active Members, all European national corrugated packaging associations.