

TÜV Rheinland LGA Products – Information

September 2019

German Law on Product Safety (“Produktsicherheitsgesetz” – ProdSG) / New PAH-requirements for granting the GS label

New specification AfPS GS 2019:01 PAK

Currently, on the initiative of the Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR) with the participation of the Central Office of the Federal States for Safety Engineering - ZLS (task force AK 2.6 “Chemistry” of the Experience exchange group EK 2 “Sport/play/leisure equipment/boats”), the previous requirements for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) for the granting of the GS mark have been revised.

On 15 May 2019, the Committee for Product Safety (AfPS) issued the new GS specification for PAHs. It was published on 28 August on the website of the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA): [https://www.baua.de/DE/Aufgaben/Geschaeftsfuehrung-von-Ausschuessen/AfPS/pdf/AfPS-GS-2019-01-PAK.pdf? blob=publicationFile&v=5](https://www.baua.de/DE/Aufgaben/Geschaeftsfuehrung-von-Ausschuessen/AfPS/pdf/AfPS-GS-2019-01-PAK.pdf?blob=publicationFile&v=5)

Start of validity on 01 July 2020

The new document replaces the GS specification AfPS GS 2014:01 PAK and is mandatory for granting a GS label from 1 July 2020 (including ongoing procedures completed after 1 July 2020). Existing GS certificates remain valid.

Relevant Changes

The limits themselves have not been lowered. A tightening of the requirements, will only take place for children's products, as these will fall into stricter categories.

1) *Stricter requirements for children's products:*

The scope of categories 1, 2a and 3a has been extended from toys within the meaning of Directive 2009/48/EC to other children's products:

- Category 1 now also applies to products intended for use by children up to 3 years of age to get in touch with the skin for longer time.
- Categories 2a and 3a have been extended to all other products intended for use by children.

2) Revision of the list of individual components to be determined:

The substances acenaphthylene, acenaphthene and fluorene will no longer be included in the evaluation due to their low toxicological relevance.

Accordingly, only the sum of marker PAH and accordingly the sum of 15 PAH will be considered.

3) Clarifications regarding the scope of testing:

- Components that are rarely and only briefly accessible by the user during simple maintenance or extension work do not have to be taken into account.
- Materials intended to be placed into the mouth must be taken into account as soon as they can come into direct or indirect contact with saliva (regardless of their touchability).

New table with PAH contents to be complied with according to AfPS GS 2014:01 PAH

Parameter	Category 1	Category 2		Category 3	
	Materials intended to be placed into the mouth, or Materials in toys or articles for children up to 3 years of age with intended long-term skin contact (more than 30 s)*	Materials that do not fall into Category 1 with intended or foreseeable long-term skin contact (more than 30 s) or repeated short-term skin contact		Materials that do neither fall into Category 1 nor 2 with intended or foreseeable short-term skin contact (up to 30 s)	
		Cat. 2a Use by children ****	Cat. 2b Other consumer products	Cat. 3a Use by children ****	Cat. 3b Other consumer products
Carcinogenic PAH (10 substances)* each [mg/kg]	< 0.2	< 0.2	< 0.5	< 0.5	< 1
Naphthalene [mg/kg]	< 1	< 2		< 10	
Sum of Marker PAH (4 substances)** [mg/kg]***	< 1	< 5	< 10	< 20	< 50
Sum of all 15 PAH [mg/kg]***	< 1	< 5	< 10	< 20	< 50

* PAH classified as carcinogenic resp. suspected to cause cancer (besides naphthalene):
 Benzo[a]pyrene, Benzo[e]pyrene, Benzo[a]anthracene, Benzo[b]fluoranthene, Benzo[j]fluoranthene,
 Benzo[k]fluoranthene, Chrysene, Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene, Indeno[1'2,3 cd]pyrene as well as Benzo[ghi]perylene.
 For the first 8 of these substances (EU-PAH) there are already legal bans for articles according to REACH-VO 1907/2006/EG Annex XVII entry no. 50.

** Indicators compounds for PAH-contamination:
 Phenanthrene, Pyrene, Anthracene, Fluoranthene.

*** In the sum, only the PAH components quantified in the material from 0.2 mg/kg are included.

****The definition of "child" means persons before the age of 14 years.
 "Use by children" includes both active and passive direct contact by children.

Risk assessment of materials to determine PAH relevance

When selecting the relevant areas, the GS certification body (testing laboratories recognised by the ZLS for granting the GS mark) carries out a risk assessment. In this context, it is determined which relevant contact/grip and activity surfaces of the product shall be considered for testing and which not.

It also plays a role whether PAH contamination is to be expected in the type of material used. PAH not only occur in rubber, but also for example in various types of plastics, synthetic fibers, paints and natural materials treated with naphthalene.

Materials that are completely inaccessible or accessible only by the use of tools do not have to be regarded, with the exception of samples showing conspicuous odor.

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