

**SIN**list

**SUBSTITUTE IT NOW!**

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*The aim of the SIN List is to spark innovation towards products without hazardous chemicals by speeding up legislative processes and giving guidance to companies and other actors on which chemicals to start substituting.*

Within the EU chemicals regulation REACH the most hazardous chemicals are defined as Substances of Very High Concern. EU member states have decided that the use of these substances should be strictly limited.

However the process of actually regulating specific chemicals within the scope of REACH has up until now been far too slow. We have a legislative framework in place, and it is about time to really make it work. This is what the SIN List is all about.

The SIN List consists of chemicals that have been identified by ChemSec as being Substances of Very High Concern, based on the criteria for these defined within REACH. The SIN List aims to speed up the REACH process as well as to offer a glimpse into the possible future of European chemicals regulation. By doing so, it is a concrete tool for companies and others to identify which chemicals to start moving away from.

The SIN List is short for “Substitute It Now!” and developed by ChemSec in close collaboration with scientists and technical experts, and other NGOs in Europe and the US. The list is based on credible, publicly available information from existing databases and scientific studies, as well as new research.

## **CHEMSEC – THE ORGANISATION BEHIND THE SIN LIST**

ChemSec is a non-profit environmental organisation working to substantially reduce the use of hazardous chemicals and its impact on health and the environment. We speed up legislative processes, encourage companies and financial investors to move away from hazardous chemicals and act as a catalyst for progressive dialogue and action.

Our vision is a world free of hazardous chemicals. Know more about us and our tools for effective chemicals management at [chemsec.org](http://chemsec.org).

# IT ALL STARTS WITH REACH

*The SIN List consists of chemicals that environmental NGO ChemSec has identified as fulfilling the criteria for “Substances of Very High Concern” as defined by the EU chemicals regulation REACH.*

The EU chemicals regulation REACH entered into force in 2007 with the aim to regulate the use of industrial chemicals on the European market. Within REACH Substances of Very High Concern should be subject to Authorisation. When a chemical has reached this far in the regulatory process, it is not allowed to be produced or used in any products in the EU unless approval has been granted for a specific use.

Before being subject to Authorisation, substances are added to the Candidate List. Both the European Commission and EU member states can propose substances to this list. For inclusion all member states must agree in unanimity. Once included on the Candidate List, producers and retailers have legal obligations – upon request from consumers they must inform on whether a product contains any substances on the Candidate List.

For current substances included on the Candidate and Authorisation Lists check out the European Chemicals Agency's website [www.echa.eu](http://www.echa.eu).





# SUBSTANCES OF VERY HIGH CONCERN

*Substances of Very High Concern are substances that can for example cause cancer, disrupt hormonal systems or adversely affect reproductive functions.*

The criteria for Substances of Very High Concern are described in REACH article 57. Three categories are included there, and also the SIN List encompasses substances from these three categories.

- 1** The first category is chemicals that can cause cancer, alter DNA or damage reproductive systems. These are called CMR substances (Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or Toxic to reproduction).
- 2** Then there are harmful substances that do not easily break down and accumulate in the food chain. These are known as PBT substances (short for Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxic). There is also the abbreviation vPvB, short for very Persistent and very Bioaccumulative.
- 3** The third category is called “substances of equivalent concern”. This category covers substances that are not automatically covered by the other two categories, but which nonetheless give rise to equivalent level of concern in terms of potential damage to health and environment. This category e.g. includes endocrine disrupting chemicals.

# SPURRING INNOVATION

*Producing for the future is all about developing products without harmful chemicals. The SIN List has been recognised by the European Commission as a major driver for innovation.*

The SIN List is a known and used tool for chemicals management globally, e.g. companies, financial investors, NGOs, regulators and authorities use this concrete tool. The European Commission has stated that the SIN List is a major driver for innovation, and the United Nations Environment Programme has highlighted the SIN List as a useful tool for chemical hazard assessment and chemical and product prioritisation.

The substances on the SIN List are grouped according to structural similarity. Also, our database contains thousands of chemicals that are not on the SIN List, but with information about if they are similar to the SIN chemicals. We call it SINimilarity. This feature is there to make it easier for companies to avoid replacing one hazardous chemical with another similar one that potentially could be just as hazardous. Such a chemical would need careful investigation before use. In this way the SIN List encourages sustainable innovation – developing products that are truly safer in the long run.

## A BROAD COALITION OF NGOS SUPPORTING THE SIN LIST

The SIN List is developed by ChemSec and guided by an NGO advisory committee of leading environmental, health, women and consumer organisations mainly in Europe but also in the US:

- The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC)
- CHEM Trust
- ClientEarth
- European Environmental Bureau (EEB)
- Greenpeace European Unit
- Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECEF)
- Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
- Clean Production Action (CPA)
- European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL)

# Check it out: the SIN List is publically available in our free-of-charge online database

There is an urgent need to reduce the use of harmful chemicals in society. Let SIN inspire you and be a concrete tool in your work towards a world with less hazardous chemicals.

Online you find more information about the SIN List and the SINilarity tool, the complete methodology behind the selection of substances for inclusion on the SIN List as well as a lot of information about each SIN chemical – how it is harmful, where and why it is commonly used etc.

[www.chemsec.org](http://www.chemsec.org)

[www.sinlist.org](http://www.sinlist.org)

