



Vita statement in response to the Environmental Audit Committee's report on Toxic Chemicals in Everyday Life,¹ and subsequent media coverage

13/08/2019

Vita welcomes the recent spotlight on chemical safety in furniture and wholly recognises our responsibility to maintain safe and proper chemical selection and use on behalf of our customers. We work to improve the chemical profile of our products and see it as an integral part of our service offering – we take care of the chemistry we specialise in, so our customers don't have to.

Chemical use in Vita products

Our research and development capabilities, as well as quality assurance procedures, mean that we are able to provide the following reassurance to our customers about the chemicals used in our products.

We can confirm that none of our polyurethane foam products contain the following types of chemicals:

- Bisphenols,
- Parabens,
- Perfluorinated chemicals,
- Phthalates,
- Brominated chemicals, including brominated flame retardants,
- Persistent Organic Pollutants (as listed, or being considered for inclusion, in the Stockholm Convention), and
- Biocides.

Furthermore, our products are certified by the CertiPUR scheme – which sets strict limits on permissible levels of volatile organic compounds, including formaldehyde.²

Our standard product ranges into the furniture and adult bedding markets contain a chlorinated organophosphate flame retardant called tris (2-chloro-1-methylethyl) phosphate, commonly referred to as TCPP. This has been one of the standard flame retardants used in flexible polyurethane furniture foam for decades. All Vita nursery grade foams, however, have been free from TCPP since the 1990s.³

Information on our new FRee foam range

We have not waited for any potential changes in regulation and have followed our values in recently developing a range of Combustion Modified Ether (CME) foam products formulated without TCPP – our FRee foam range.

We believe we are first to market with non-TCPP containing CME products to cost-competitively meet the needs of the furniture and bedding sectors. The foams in our FRee foam range achieve the high standards of fire safety required by UK and Irish regulations, without compromising on technical performance or chemical safety.

Your sales manager will share with you more details of the range prior to, and during, its launch at the September NBF Bed Show event in Telford. Come meet us there to learn more about our commitment to chemical excellence along with our full range of innovative products.

References

1. For the report published by the EAC as well as the written evidence Vita submitted to the inquiry (dated 19 March 2019) see <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/toxic-chemicals-in-everyday-life-17-19/publications/>
2. TCPP hadn't previously been removed from other foams because it is was only technically and economically possible for Combustion Modified High Resilient (CMHR) foams - such as used in nursery products but not widely in furniture or adult bedding.