

Kärcher products free of hazardous substances

Guideline for Kärcher producing
companies and suppliers

Version 1.0
November 2011

Contents

No.	Topic	Page
1.	General information	3
2.	Contacts at Kärcher, Winnenden	4
3.	Kärcher producing companies	5
4.	Suppliers	6
5.	Possible consequences	7
6.	Kärcher standard Kän 050.032	8
7.	Special requirements for key accounts and OEM customers	9

1. General information

The number of statutory regulations relating to the use of certain materials and substances is on the increase around the world. The number of regulated substances is also rising all the time. There is a growing number of substances whose use is either prohibited or restricted, or must be reported to customers.

Customers, in particular large trading corporations, are paying increasing attention to this issue. The requirements imposed by these customers often exceed the statutory regulations. Substances for which a reporting obligation exists are being banned entirely by customers. Customers are increasing the severity of limiting values imposed by the law.

Consumer organizations such as Stiftung Warentest are also focusing on the materials used in products. The presence of hazardous substances very frequently causes such products to be graded lower.

Infringements against statutory regulations or customer requirements can result in damage to a company's image, but also bring with them a high economic risk. Product recalls, conversion measures or scrapping can bring about enormous costs for Kärcher and its suppliers.

Kärcher locations and suppliers around the world are consequently expected to pay precise attention to the valid rules and regulations, and to ensure that they remain abreast of the very latest information.

2. Contacts for matters concerning hazardous substances at Alfred Kärcher GmbH & Co. KG, Winnenden

Department SRD-M Material Lab

Stephanie Missner

E-mail: STEPHANIE.MISSNER@de.kaercher.com

Tel. +49 (7195) 14 – 4319

Department CPR-E Environment

Axel Leschtar

AXEL.LESCHTAR@de.kaercher.com

+49 (07195) 142804

3. Kärcher producing companies

Important measures in respect of compliance with Kärcher standard 050.032 and where applicable also special requirements for Key Accounts and OEM customers:

- Designation of a contact partner / specialist
- Maintaining up-to-date knowledge, for instance through contacts to Kärcher, trade associations, or the Chamber of Commerce
- Keeping sub-contractors informed
- Having freedom from hazardous substances confirmed by sub-contractors
- Having freedom from hazardous substances verified by an external laboratory in case of suspicion
- Preventing contamination in the production process
- Documenting information relating to hazardous substances in materials and forwarding these to headquarters

4. Suppliers

Important measures in respect of compliance with Kärcher standard 050.032 and where applicable also special requirements for Key Accounts and OEM customers:

- Designation of a contact partner / specialist
- Maintaining up-to-date knowledge, for instance through contacts to Kärcher, trade associations, or the Chamber of Commerce
- Keeping sub-contractors informed
- Having freedom from hazardous substances confirmed by sub-contractors
- Having freedom from hazardous substances verified by an external laboratory in case of suspicion
- Preventing contamination in the production process
- Documenting information relating to hazardous substances in materials and forwarding these to Kärcher

5. Possible consequences

If infringements / exceeded values are discovered during checks by Kärcher, authorities, consumer organizations or customers:

- Rejection of the goods
- Sales prohibition on the product
- Claims for damages
- Recall and conversion of products
- Discontinuation of supplier relations

Examples

In May 2001, a competitor company informed the Dutch customs authorities that cables used in the appliance XY contained 20 times the level of cadmium permitted according to the Dutch implementation regulations. The Dutch customs authorities seized 1.3 million appliances and 800,000 accessories at a market value of 162 million US Dollars. The exchange of cables and safety checks necessary prior to returning these appliances for sale in Holland incurred a cost of 110 million US Dollars.

In June 2009, a fine of 2.3 million US Dollars was imposed against a US American company by the American Consumer Product Safety Commission. The company had knowingly imported and marketed toys containing lead from China.

6. Kärcher standard KÄN 050.032

KÄN 050.032 encompasses the most important statutory regulations on prohibited substances and substance restrictions, such as ROHS and REACH.

It specifies important actions to be undertaken by Kärcher and its suppliers.

KÄN 050.032 is binding around the world for all Kärcher locations. Any deviations from the requirements of this Kärcher standard must therefore be agreed in advance with Kärcher in writing.

The current version can be downloaded from the Kärcher website.

German:

https://supplierinfo.kaercher.com/Lieferantenseite_d.htm - Umwelt

English:

https://supplierinfo.kaercher.com/Lieferantenseite_d.htm - Environment

7. Special requirements for key accounts and OEM customers

Some key accounts and OEM customers set out their own product standards. In some cases, these requirements exceed the statutory regulations or the stipulations contained in Kän 050.032.

Additional substances are prohibited or more stringent limiting values are imposed.

In many cases, these requirements cannot be fulfilled using materials complying with the Kärcher standard.

Kärcher producing companies and suppliers are consequently required to check prior to the procurement of material and the start of production, whether special requirements exist and whether these can be fulfilled using standard material.

The special requirements applying to key accounts and OEM customers may be requested from Kärcher as an addition to the Kän 050.032.