

POLICY FOR THE USE OF PHTHALATE PLASTICISERS IN FLEXIBLE PVC PRODUCTS IN AUSTRALIA

Purpose

This is a voluntary Policy Commitment for the use of phthalate plasticisers in the manufacture of flexible PVC products in Australia by the Signatories to this Product Stewardship Commitment. It reflects the intention of those Signatories who use these plasticisers to comply with its terms and oversee its implementation.

Whereas much scientific research has been published indicating the general safety of these plasticisers in appropriate applications, Signatories recognise that ongoing debate has caused some public concern. Accordingly, they make the following undertakings.

Undertakings by Signatories

We, the Signatories:

1. Acknowledge our responsibility to use these plasticisers only where they are reasonably and properly regarded as safe in the light of available scientific evidence on their environmental and health impacts.
2. Will cease the use of a phthalate plasticiser in any application where available scientific evidence shows it to have unacceptable health or environmental impacts.
3. Will monitor overseas developments regarding the health and environmental safety of these products.
4. Will seek the involvement of independent scientific and medical expertise where appropriate.
5. Will monitor and evaluate overseas developments in the use of PVC plasticisers.
6. Will promote the sharing of information on the above issues among Signatories and other relevant parties in Australia, including regulatory, environment and health authorities and agencies.
7. Will, through the Vinyl Council, cooperate with state and federal regulatory authorities and agencies regarding any issues associated with these plasticisers.