

What is California Proposition 65?

Proposition 65 is “Right-to-Know” legislation intended to protect the public from exposure to certain substances that are suspected to cause cancer or reproductive harm. Proposition 65 applies to products sold in or imported into the State of California that contain one or more listed substances, and where normal use of the product could expose the public to harmful levels of the substance(s). In these circumstances, such products require specific warning labels. There are currently more than 900 substances on the California Proposition 65 list. Information about Proposition 65 can be found via the following link www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

What has changed recently?

As of August 2018, new requirements apply to the wording of the warning label. The previous requirement was “WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer [and/or birth defects or other reproductive harm].”

The new product labelling requirements include:

A pictogram to the left of the warning statement 

A statement that “This product can expose you to”

The name(s) of the chemical

Reference to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov

How does this apply to Vintex’s products?

Many of Vintex’s products are flexible vinyl-coated textiles. The flexible vinyl coating contains several main ingredients such as PVC resin, plasticizers, pigments, and filler, as well as minor additives such as lubricants, UV stabilizers, biocides, and flame retardants. Two of the chemicals used at Vintex are on the Prop 65 list – DINP (an ortho-phthalate plasticizer), and antimony trioxide (a flame retardant), and they are only present in certain products. If flexible vinyl-coated textiles that contain these substances are used as components of end products sold in or imported to California, Proposition 65’s labelling requirements may apply. Contact Vintex for further information on your product’s composition.

What is DINP?

DINP (click for information about this chemical), or di-isononyl phthalate, is a commonly-used liquid plasticizer that is added to vinyl compounds to make the PVC polymer soft and flexible. DINP plasticizer was added to the Proposition 65 list at the end of 2013 as a cancer risk based on a selected series of studies specifically indicating that relatively high doses of DINP could cause tumors in rodents (rats / mice). However, this finding is not supported by extensive scientific data and analysis conducted by industry, the American Chemical Council, and multiple regulatory bodies in the USA, EU and Australia who recently found no relationship between DINP

exposure and cancer in humans. No published studies of carcinogenic effects on humans were found. For more information, please view www.phthalates.org.

In 2009, Vintex moved away from all phthalates (including DINP) in all our V-Care and SoffTICK healthcare products, but we continue to use DINP as a plasticizer in a limited number of products.

What is Antimony Trioxide?

Antimony trioxide is commonly used as a flame retardant in flexible vinyl compounds. As a finely-powdered mineral, it poses a cancer risk in its raw format due to inhalation of the dust. Once compounded into the flexible vinyl formulation, extruded and coated onto the fabric, this material is completely encapsulated by the PVC polymer matrix and under normal uses of the product, can no longer become airborne or inhaled.

Do I have to stop using products made with DINP or antimony trioxide?

No. California Proposition 65 does not prohibit the use of these chemicals and they can continue to be used in any product where they would otherwise be used. Depending on the application, the product may simply require a Proposition 65 warning label. Businesses supplying the California market can decide for themselves if they wish to continue to use products that contain these substances. Contact Vintex for more information on alternatives.

Do I have to put a Proposition 65 warning label on my product?

Maybe. The regulation is not based on chemical content, but on the exposure to the public that would be expected to result from normal uses of the product. Each supplier must make their own evaluation of whether or not the expected exposure level will be harmful. California's Office of Environmental Health and Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) has set a No Significant Risk Level (NSRL), or Safe Harbor Limit of 146 µg/day for DINP, but there is currently no established limit for antimony trioxide. Even with this information, it can be difficult to prove that any exposure to a listed chemical is below a hazardous level. Some companies may choose to include a Proposition 65 warning label as a precautionary measure, since Proposition 65 does not have any penalties for having a warning label that may be unnecessary.

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