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Press release

Classification and labelling of DEHP

Adaptation of Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC to technical progress

In Brussels on 25 January 2001 the Committee on the adaptation to technical progress decided in favour of the classification and labelling of DEHP (Diethylhexylphthalate). Representatives of the Commission, the European chemicals bureau and member states voted for the European Commission's proposed directive which plans to classify DEHP as a 'substance with fertility and developmental effects' and to label it with a 'danger symbol for substances classified as CAT 2'.

The plastics converters are not worried about this additional labelling. *"The Brussels decision won't change anything in our production. Marking such substances with a danger symbol for substances classified as CAT 2 is not new. Our plant already meets the highest legal safety requirements and our employee's safety is therefore guaranteed - regardless whether a substance is CAT 2 marked or not,"* according to Mr Dieter Dengl, C.E.O. of Renolit.

DEHP labelling will be required by law in EU member states from 30 July 2002 at the latest. At the start of March 2001 the European Commission will present a proposal for a directive adapting to technical progress Annex I to Directive 67/548/EEC. This will be the 28th adaptation of Directive 67/548/EEC.