

EN

E-001892/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(29.6.2026)

Lead is a substance of very high concern (SVHC) due to its hazardous properties as toxic for reproduction. To protect human health and the environment, lead is regulated under the Regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of chemicals (REACH)¹ in mixtures² and several consumer products³, as well as in several sectors: batteries⁴, electronic equipment⁵, end of life vehicles⁶.

Consumer products placed or made available on the EU market, including hygiene products, must comply with the General Product Safety Regulation⁷. The Commission is not aware of the mentioned Norwegian study. However, the Commission takes the safety of consumer products, very seriously. Authorities from the Member States and the European Economic Area (EEA) must notify measures taken against products containing hazardous substances, through the Safety Gate Rapid Alert System⁸. This system enables the quick exchange of information among authorities and makes relevant information publicly available.

The Commission has not planned actions on lead in tampons under REACH. The Commission is open to engaging with researchers, national authorities, and industry stakeholders to assess new evidence and determine appropriate actions to safeguard public health. Ongoing and planned work on REACH restrictions is publicly available in the restriction roadmap⁹. Member States, and EEA States, have the possibility to propose substances for restriction under REACH if they consider they pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023>.

² REACH Annex XVII Entry 30.

³ REACH Annex XVII Entry 63.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02023R1542-20250731>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02011L0065-20250101>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02000L0053-20230330>.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02023R0988-20260529>.

⁸ The EU rapid alert system for dangerous non-food products, <https://ec.europa.eu/safety-gate>.

⁹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/42cc336d-13ac-4e26-bec0-406efd07577c/download>.