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JAPAN AUTOMOBILE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

INFORMATION LETTER TO SUPPLIERS ON THE PHASE OUT OF DECABROMODIPHENYL ETHER (CAS NO. 1163-19-5) FROM AUTOMOTIVE REACH TF (Brussels, 14/07/2016)

There are significant regulatory actions on the flame retardant decabromodiphenyl ether (DecaBDE) which has been used extensively in automotive applications for the past thirty years or so.

Under the EU REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006, DecaBDE has been proposed for Restriction. For automotive parts, this will mean that vehicles produced or imported into the European Union (EU) or the wider European Economic Area (EEA), will not be permitted to contain DecaBDE flame retarded materials after middle of 2018.

Spare parts for vehicles produced before middle of 2018 could however, continue to be sold.

Under the Stockholm Convention, DecaBDE has been identified as a Persistent Organic Pollutant (POP) and will be prohibited by all countries who are signatories to the Stockholm Convention, which effectively means that DecaBDE will be subject to a global ban.

The POP restriction and the REACH restrictions are not aligned. The POP requirement for continued use of DecaBDE in spare parts is likely to be limited to safety critical and powertrain parts only.

After the POP Regulation has been finalised, the REACH restriction for DecaBDE will be repealed, as DecaBDE will subsequently be regulated by the EU POP Regulation (EC) 850/2004.

What does this mean to me?

In the EU and North America DecaBDE has been phased out over the last 5 years, so most parts manufactured in these regions should by now, be DecaBDE free.

In Asia the use of DecaBDE is still prevalent, so it is quite possible that parts produced in this region may contain this substance.

These instances will need to cease before middle of 2018 for series vehicles manufactured or imported into the EU/EEA.

DecaBDE is listed on the Global Automotive Declarable Substance List (see www.GADSL.org), so if present in your parts it will need to be declared in the International Material Data System (IMDS).

You can identify affected parts by searching for the CAS No. 1163-19-5 in IMDS.

If you are still using automotive parts that contain DecaBDE, please contact your customer as soon as possible, to understand their requirements.